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SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

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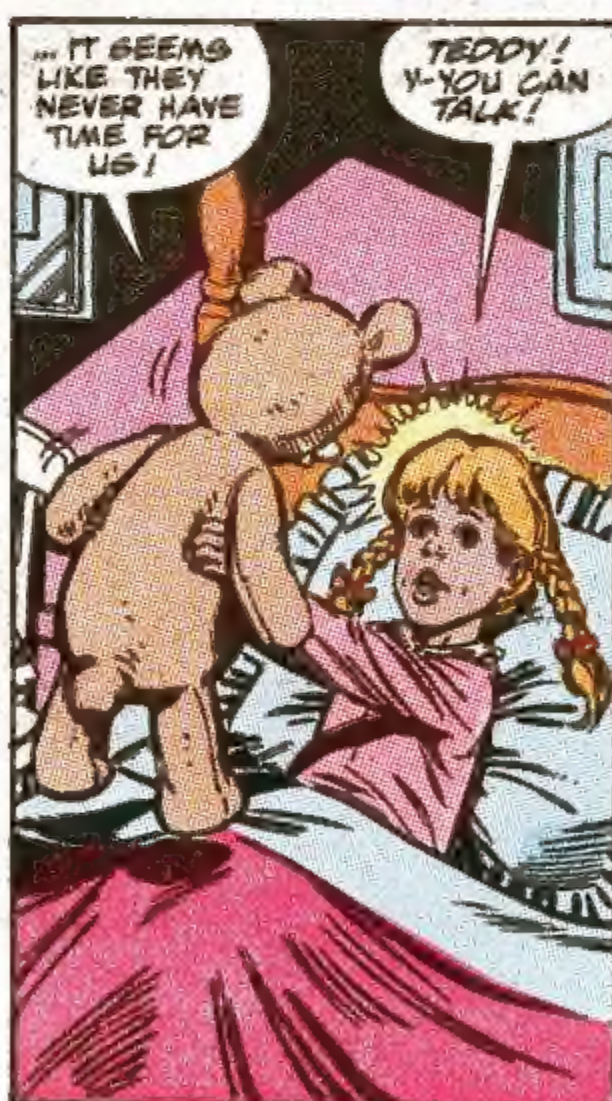
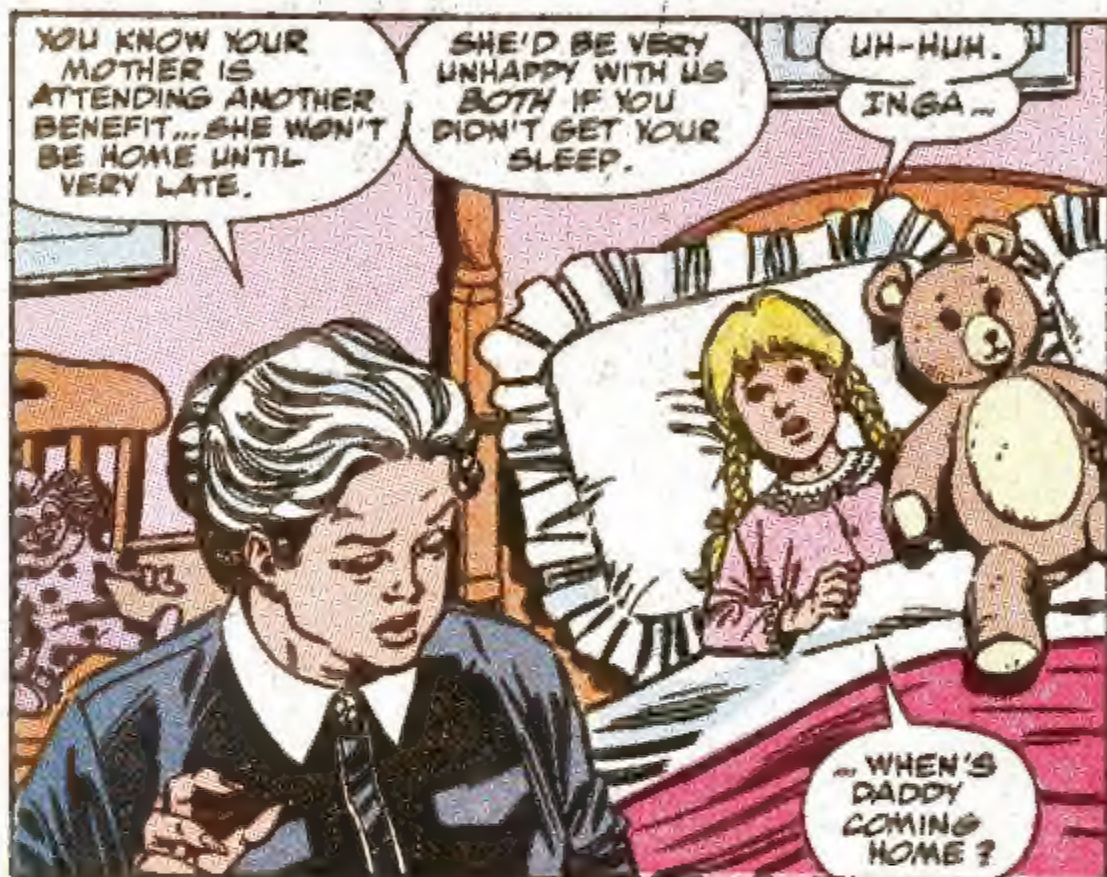
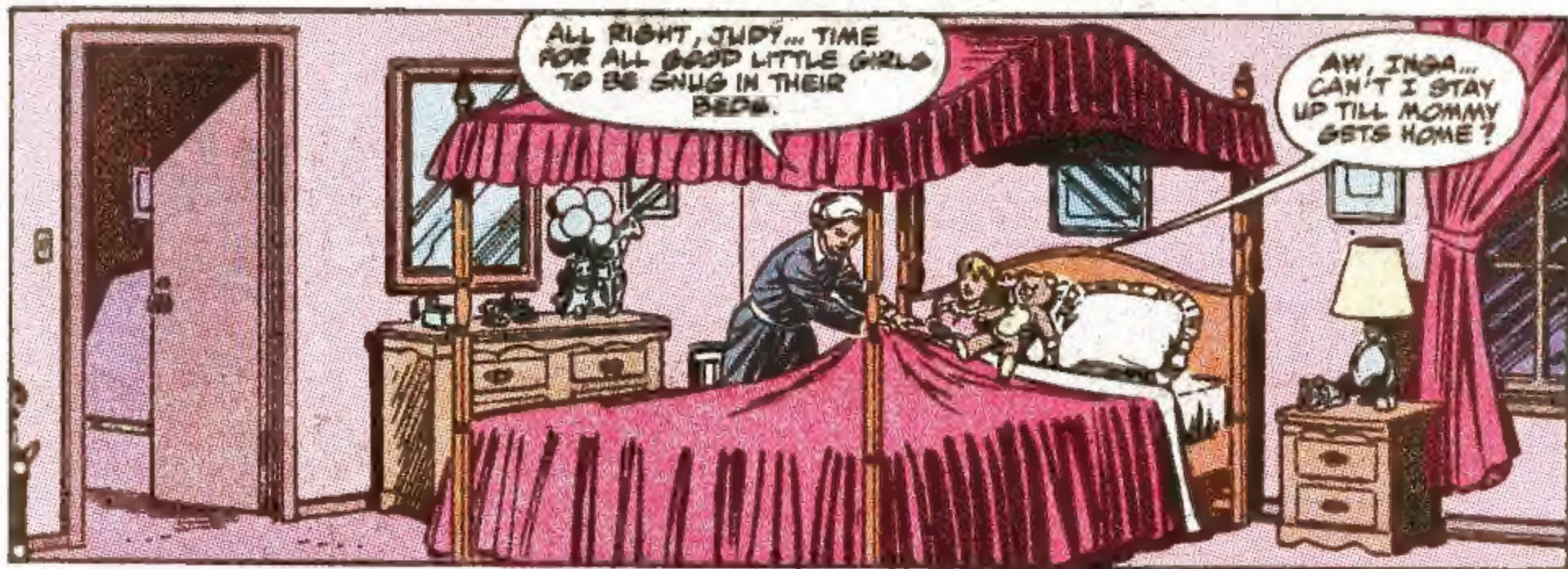
KIDS...
STOP!
THOSE
TOYS...

THEY'RE
NOTHING BUT
TROUBLE!



DON'T
MISS
SUPERMAN
NO. 48
IN 2
WEEKS!

by STERN,
GAMMILL &
BREEDING



MORNING.

METROPOLIS' EXCLUSIVE PARK RIDGE SECTION...

SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

"There is a happy land... far, far away..."

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME ACTIVITY OUT THIS WAY.

FIVE PATROL CARS ... AND BILL HENDERSON'S SEDAN! CLEARLY, SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN!

ROGER STERN - WRITER
KERRY GAMMILL - LATE
BRETT BREEDING - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
JON PETERSON - ASSOCIATE
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



WHATEVER
HAPPENED
HERE
APPEARS TO
BE OVER...

SUPERMAN'S
PROBABLY
NOT NEEDED...



...BUT ANY INVESTIGATION
REQUIRING SO MANY MARKED
CARS AND AN INSPECTOR OF
DETECTIVES IS OF DEFINITE
INTEREST TO CLARK KENT.

IF I HURRY, I MIGHT
GET A STORY IN TIME
FOR THE AFTERNOON
EDITION.



PARDON
ME...

HUH? WHERE'D
YOU COME FROM?

THE DAILY
PLANET...
NAME'S KENT.
I'D LIKE TO
SEE INSPEC-
TOR HENDER-
SON.

HE'S
OKAY--
LET 'IM
IN.



...CAN'T BELIEVE
IT, INSPECTOR...
I JUST CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!
WHAT KIND OF A
MONSTER WOULD
HAVE TAKEN
JUDY?

I DON'T KNOW, MA'AM.
BUT WE'LL DO EVERY-
THING WE CAN TO FIND
HIM AND YOUR DAUGHTER.
I PROMISE YOU THAT IN
THE MEANTIME, OFFICER
GARSON WILL BE HERE
FOR YOUR SAFETY...

...SHOULD THE KID-
NAPPERS
ATTEMPT
TO CONTACT
YOU, SHE'LL
KNOW HOW
TO HANDLE
THINGS.



HELLO, KENT.
I DIDN'T
EXPECT THE
MEDIA TO
CATCH WIND
OF THIS SO
QUICKLY.

OH, YOU
KNOW ME,
BILL.

KIDNAPPING?

YEAH, A LITTLE GIRL
ABDUCTED SOMETIME
LAST NIGHT. THIS IS
A STRANGE ONE.

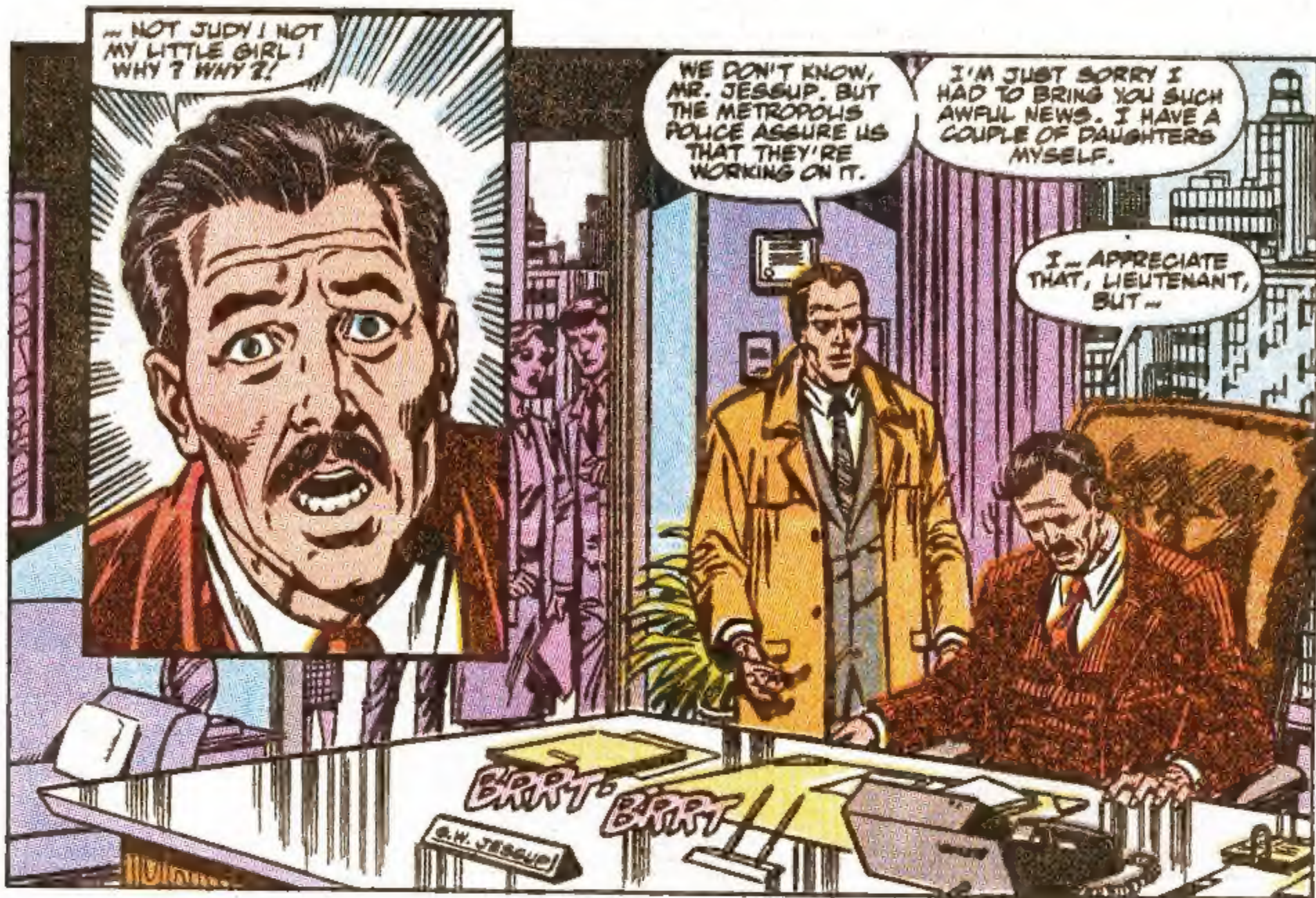


HOW
SO?

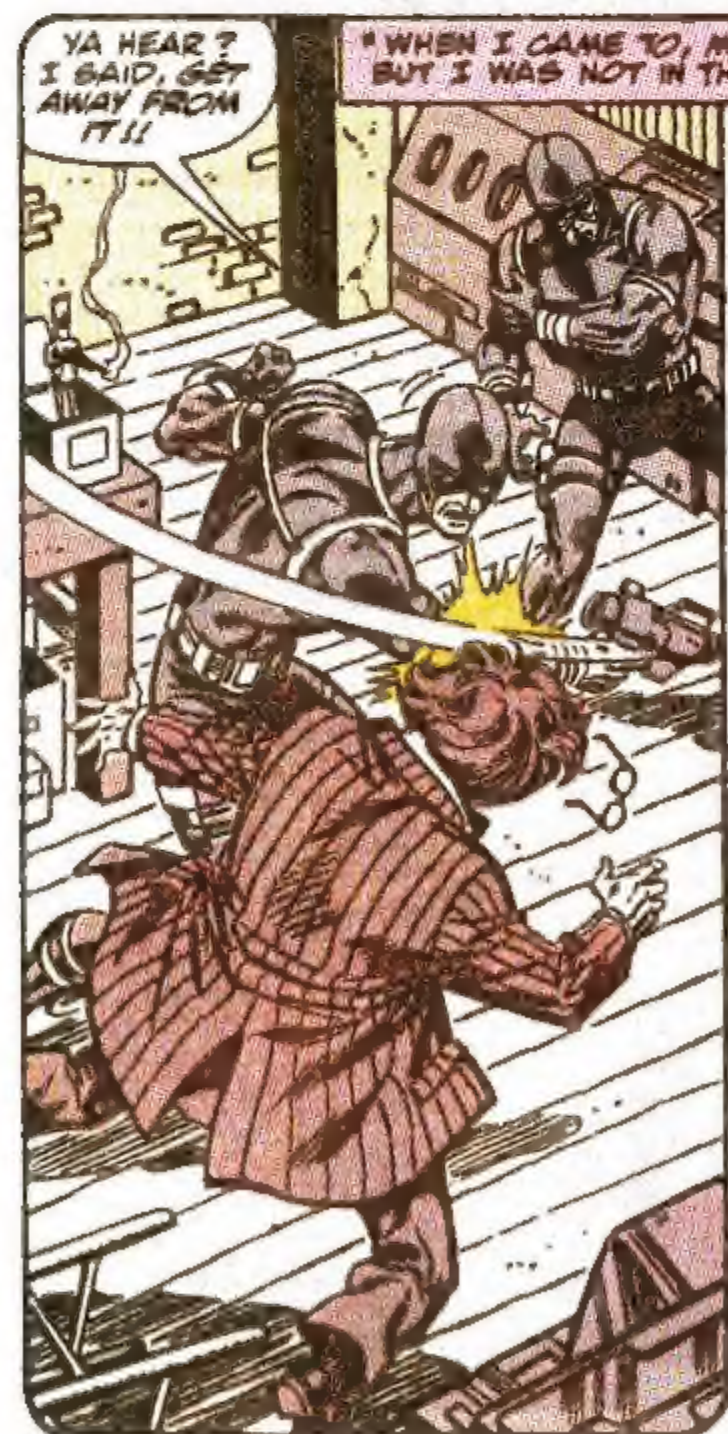
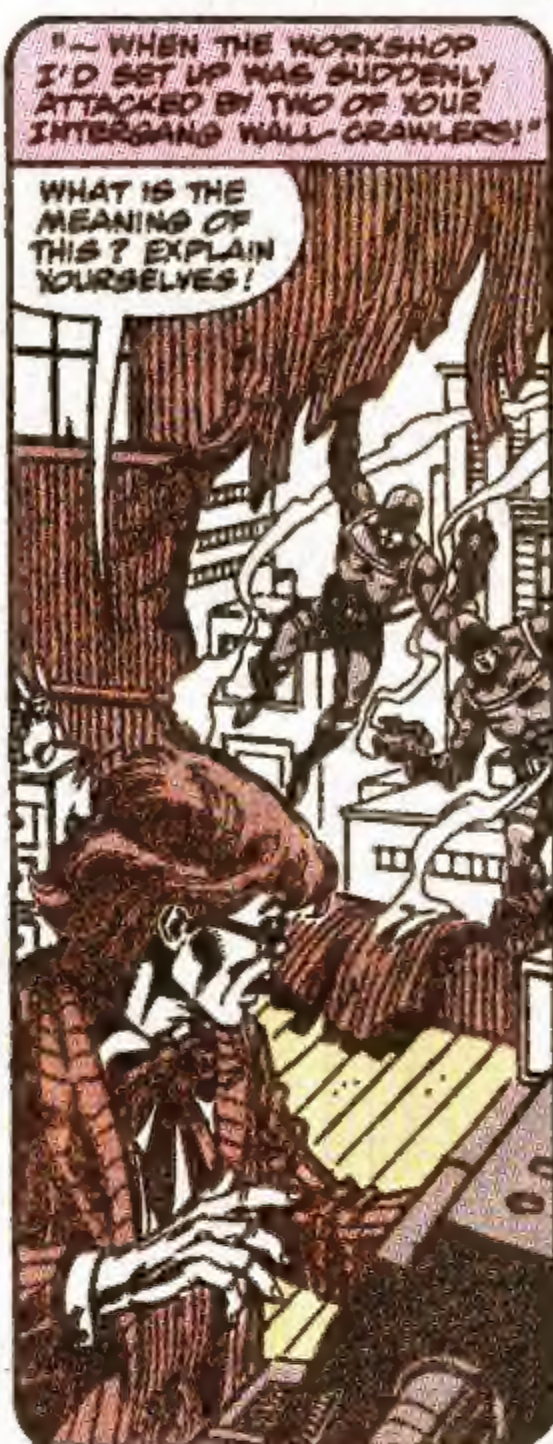
FOR ONE THING, THE ONLY OTHER PERSON IN
THE HOUSE AT THE TIME WAS THE NANNY, AND
SHE SWEARS SHE DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING. I
GUESS THAT'S POSSIBLE... THE SECURITY
ALARM WAS CIRCUMVENTED.

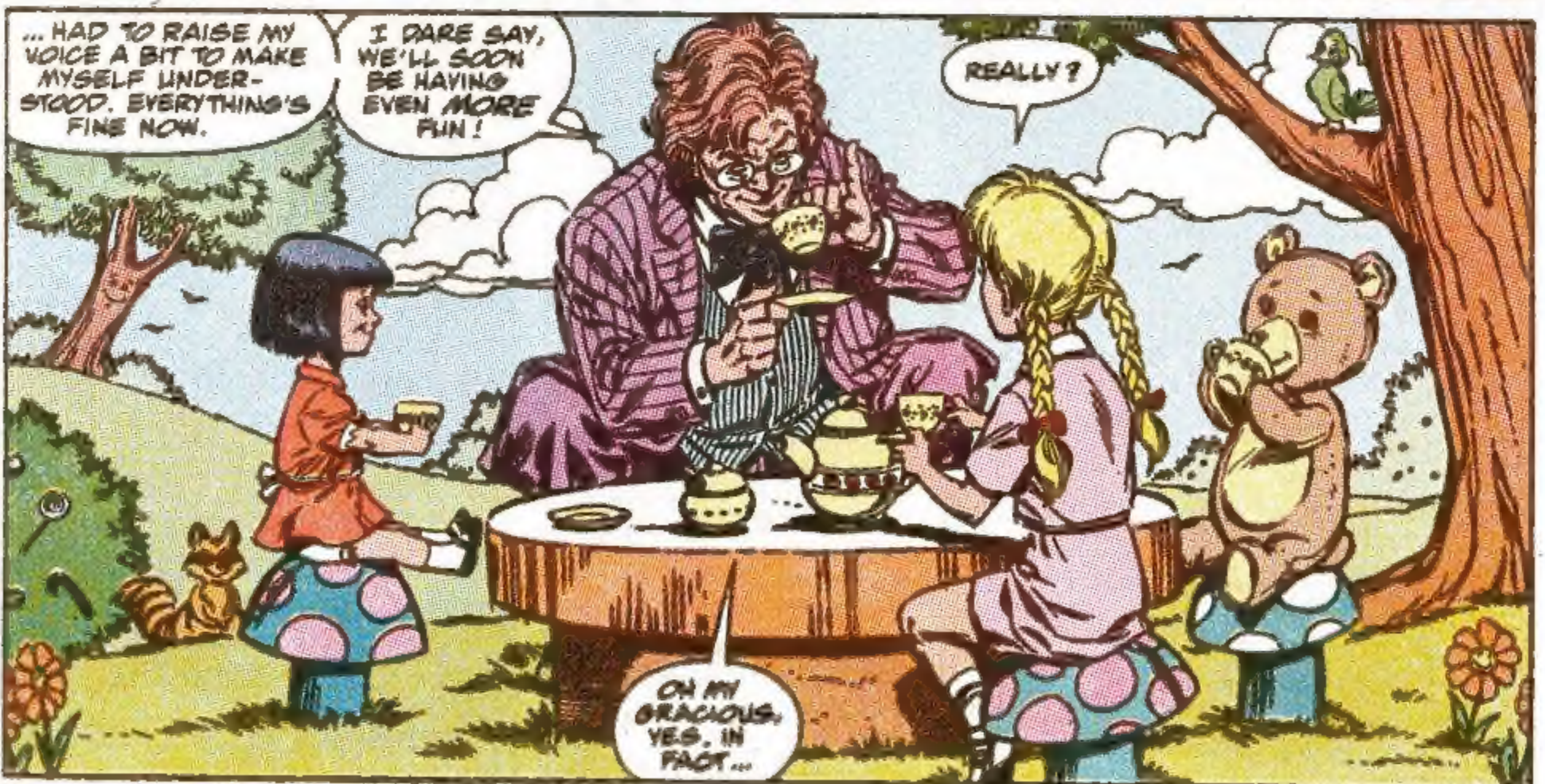
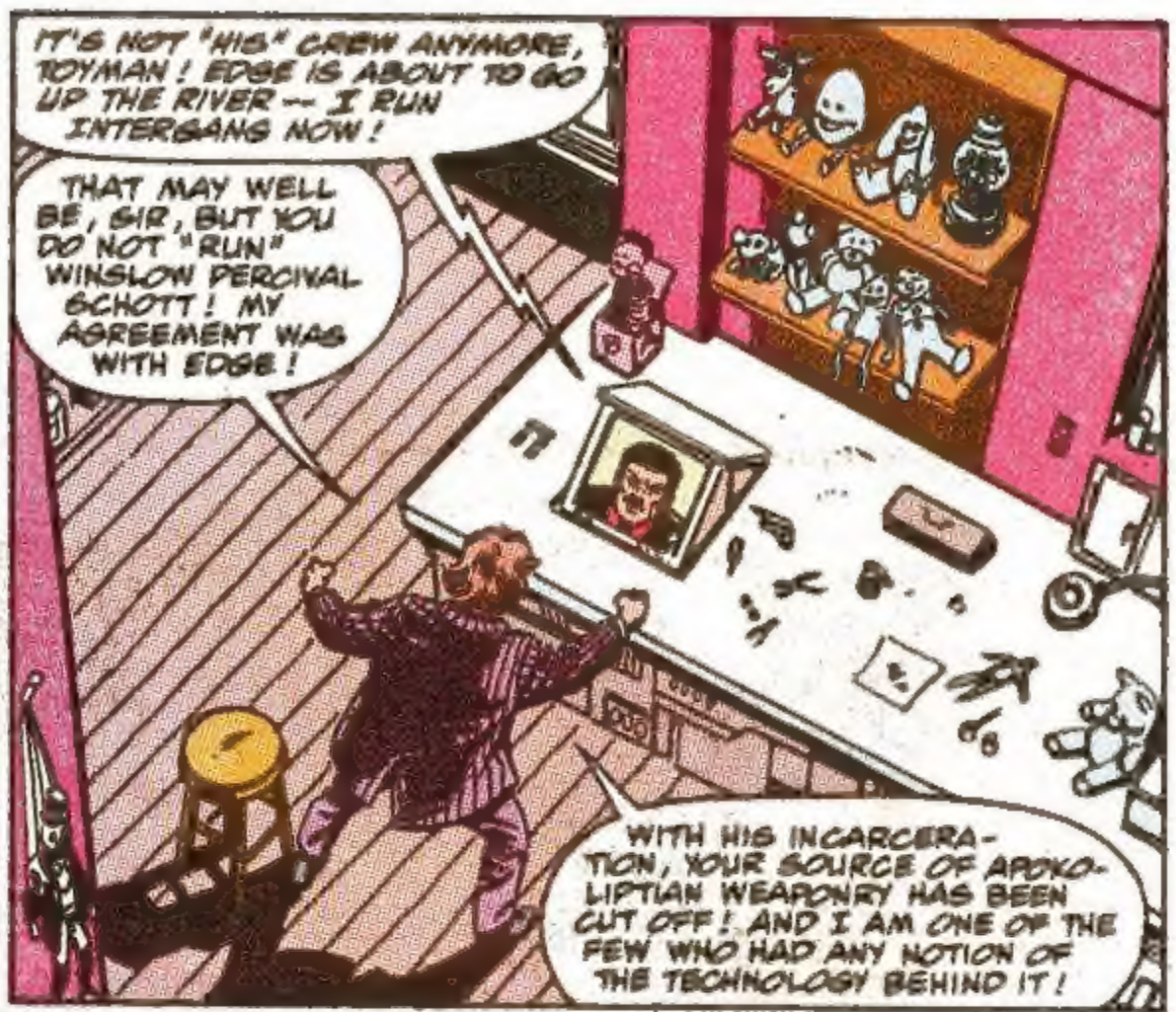
BUT... WELL, COME ON... AS LONG
AS YOU'RE HERE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL
SEE THIS FOR YOURSELF!

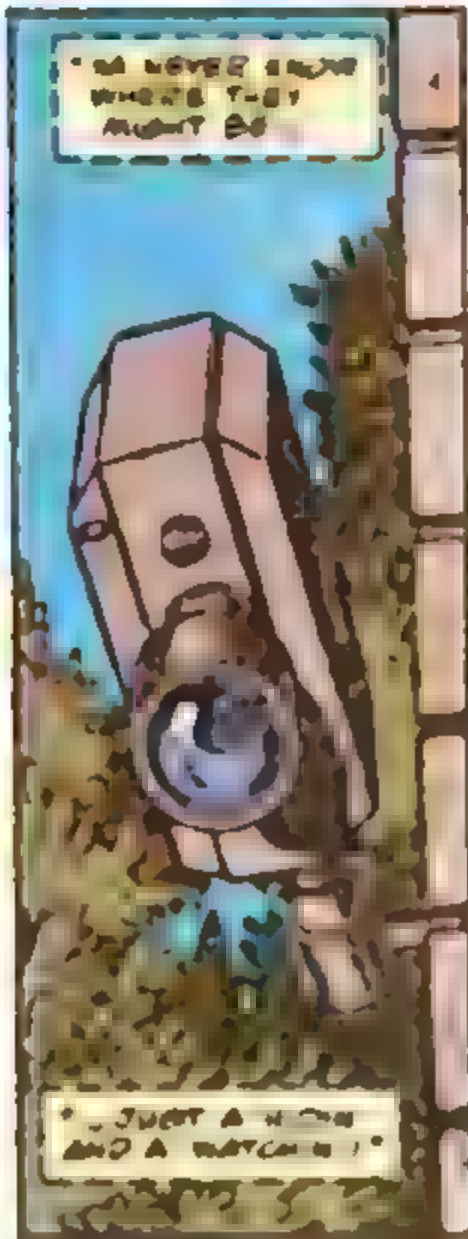
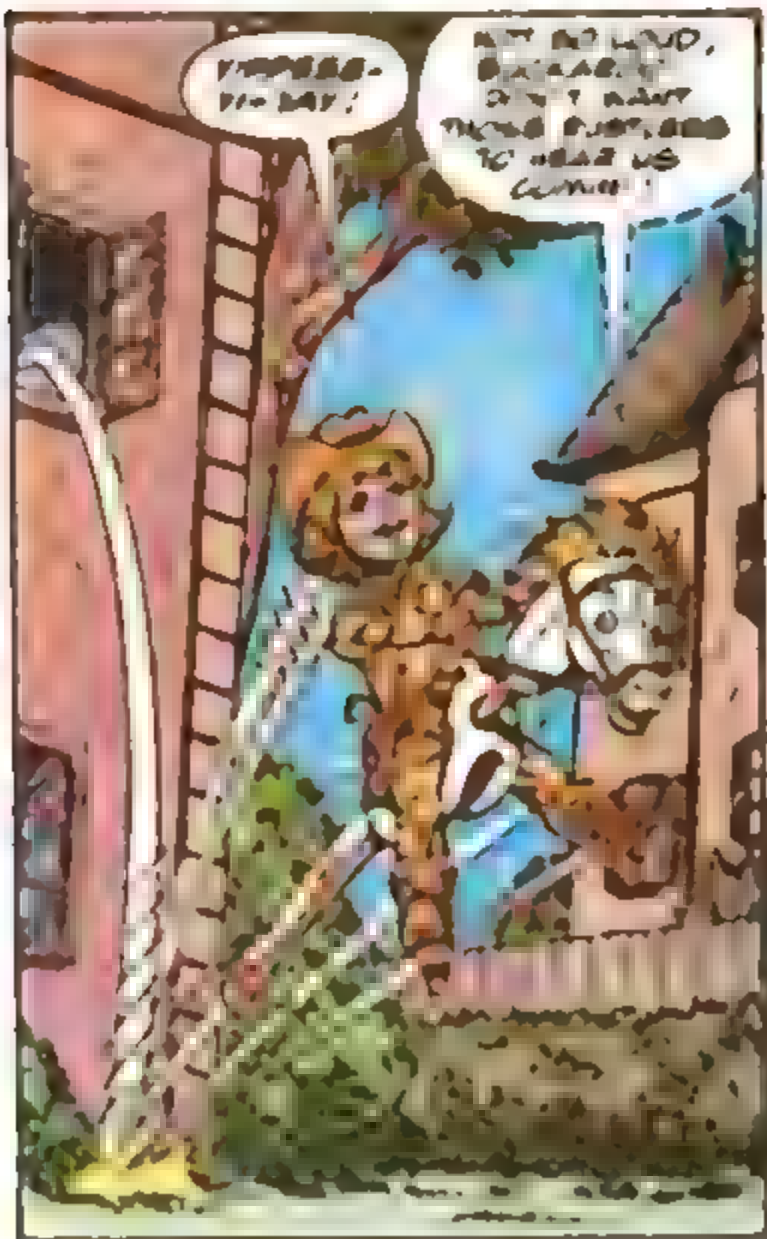


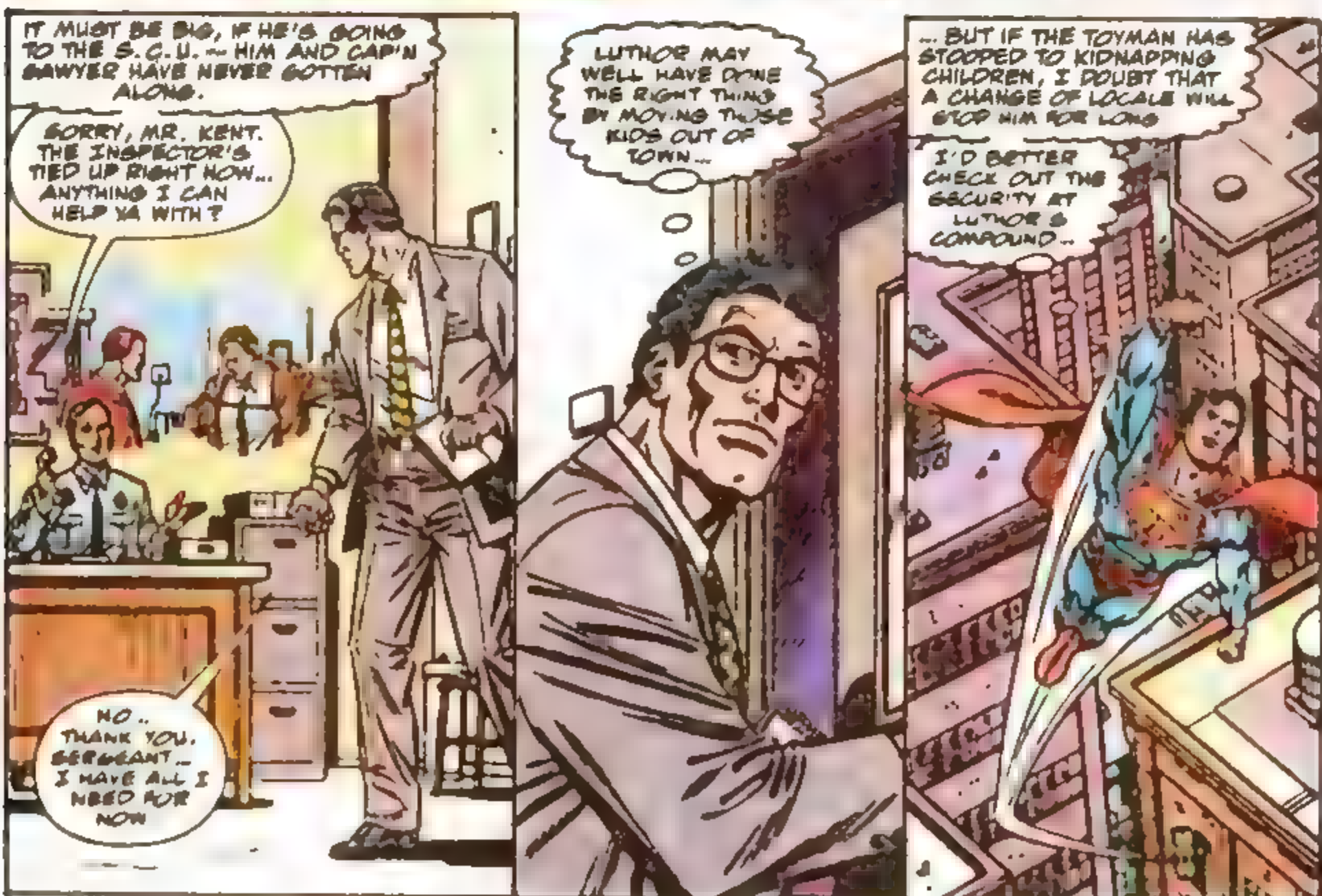
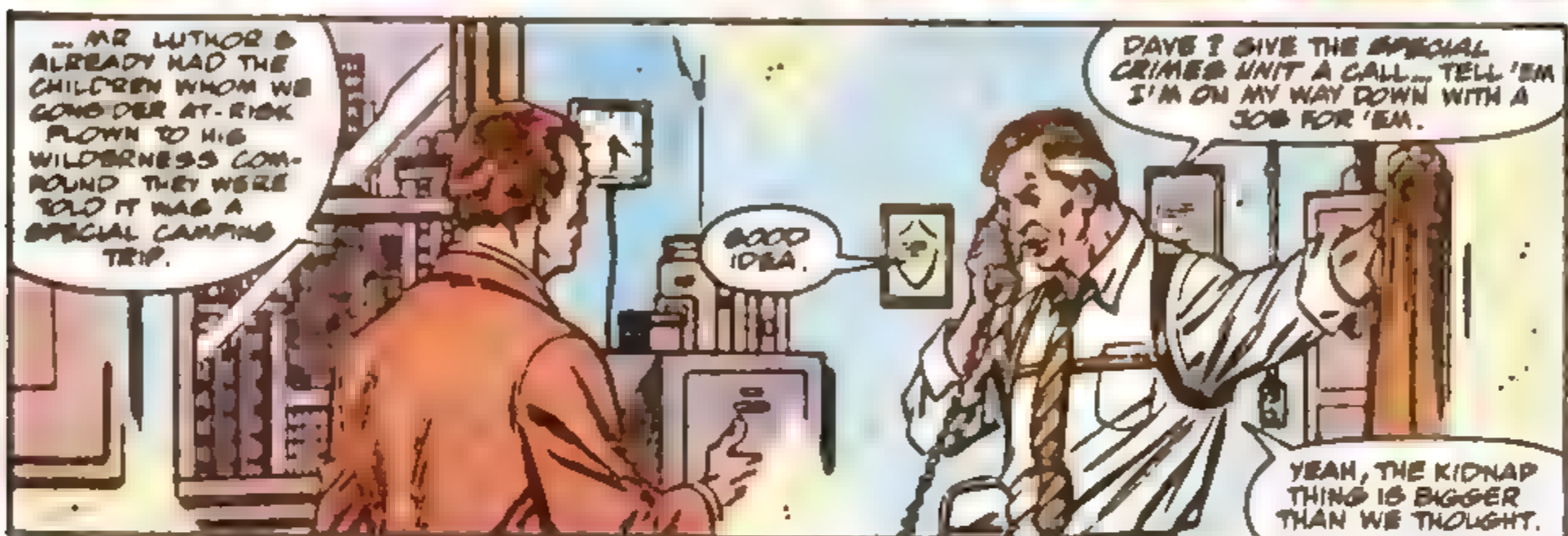
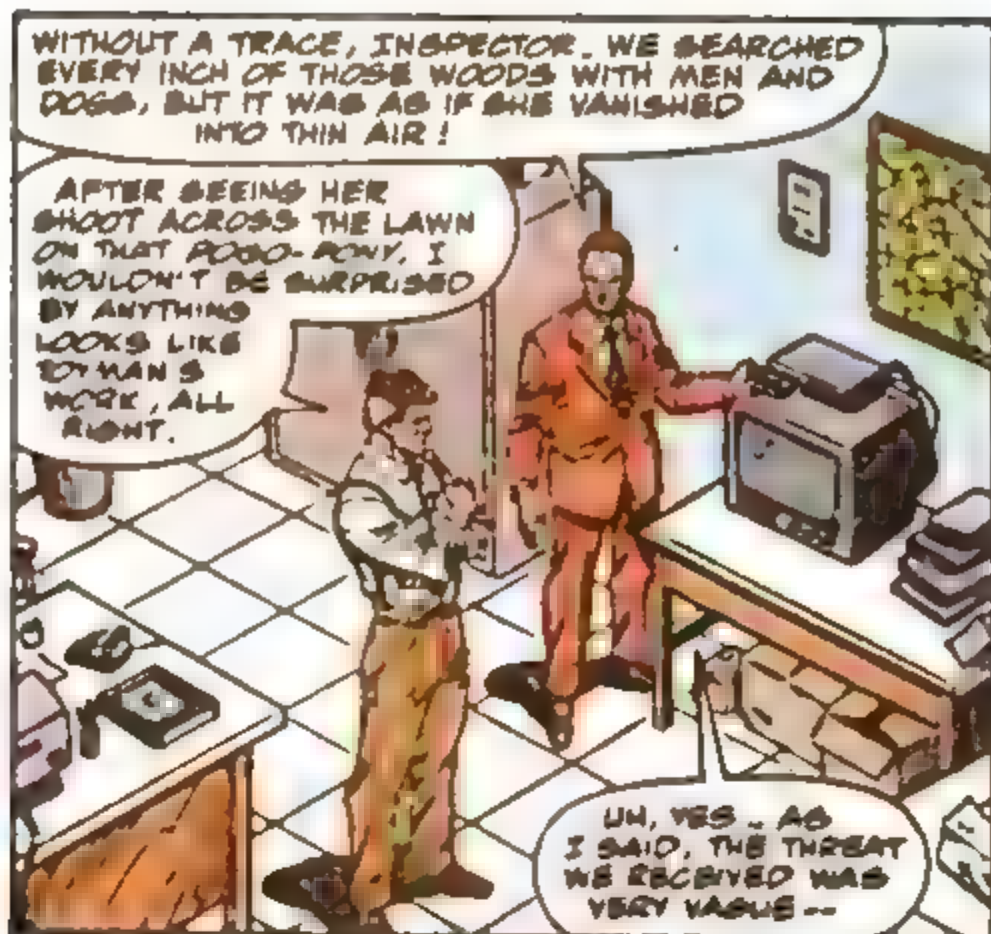














"...ALL ABOUT BE GETTING DARK THERE."

"PLEASE!"

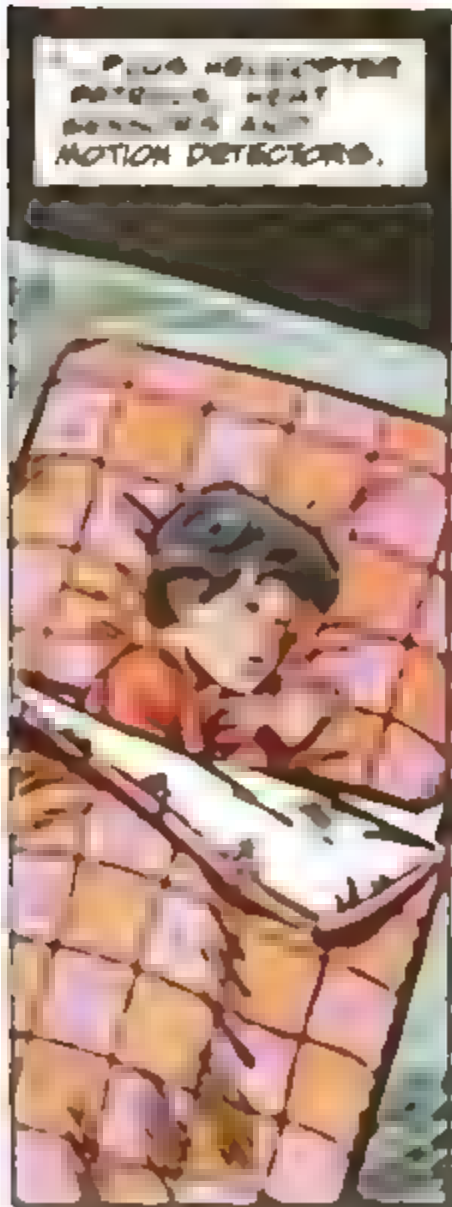


"...I THOUGHT THESE KIDS WOULD NEVER FALL ASLEEP!"



"WHAT'S THE POINT OF ANYTHING IF YOU'RE ASLEEP?"

"LET A POOR LITTLE KID TELLING YOU HE HAD OVER EATEN AND STAYING THROUGHOUT THESE NIGHTS."



"PLUS HELICOPTER ROTORS, HEAT SENSORS AND MOTION DETECTORS."



"NOTHING IS GETTING GOT PAST US!"

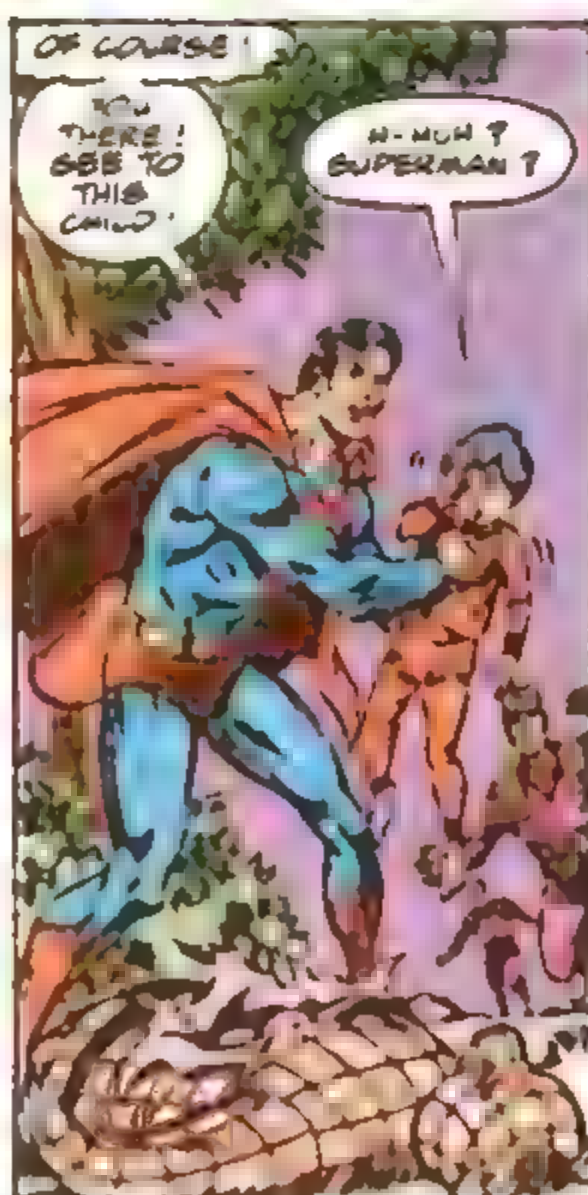
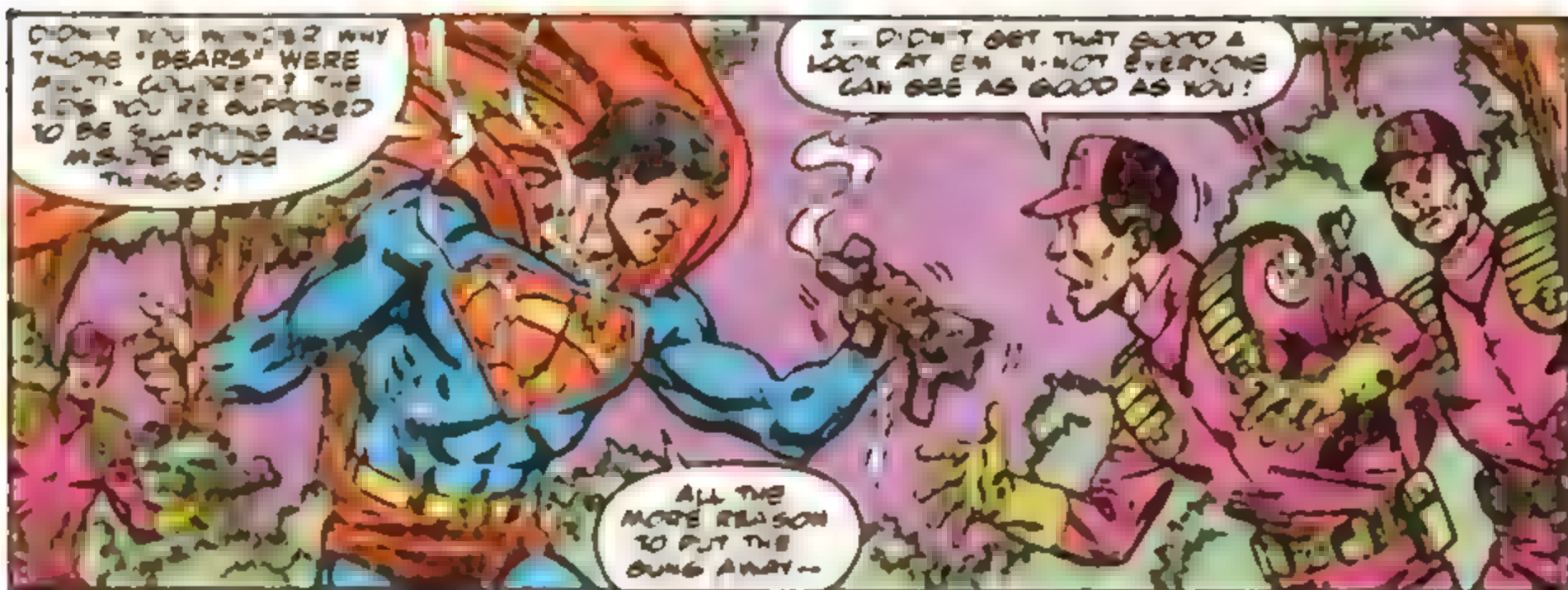


"EIGHT NEW THINGS KIDS ARE ASLEEP--"



"...AS IF THEY WERE IN THE OWN BATHROOM AREA!"

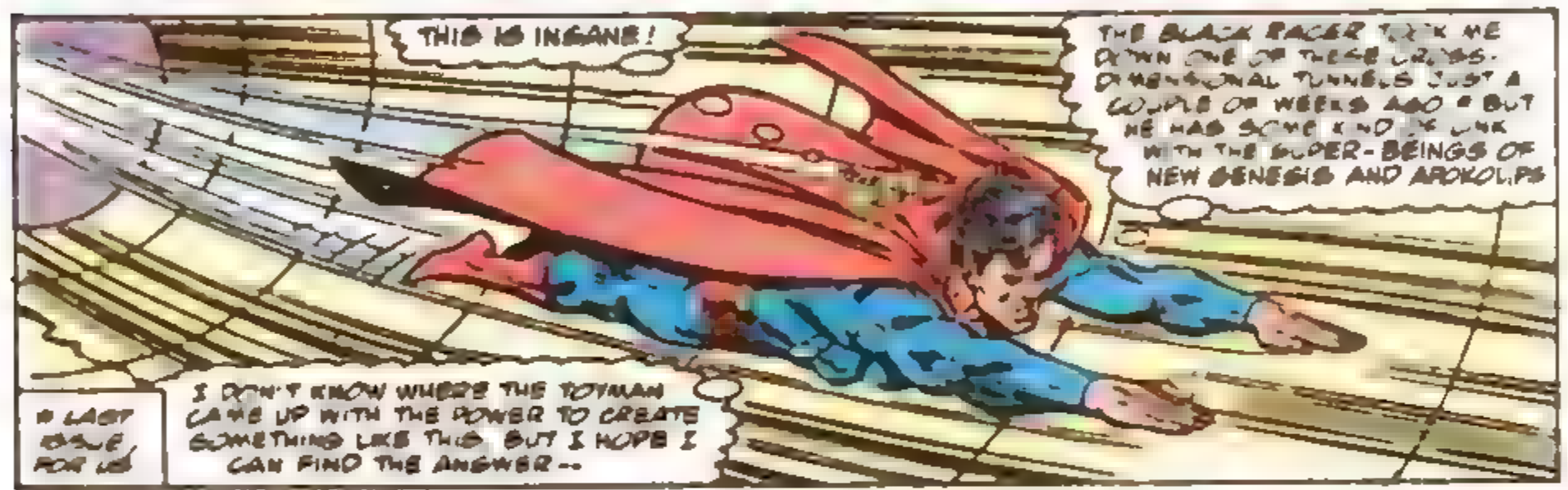






WHAT IN THE -- ?
SOME SORT OF LIGHT
SALV TAO, IT'S AN
OPENING... A
WARP!

"THOSE THINGS
ARE GETTING
AWAY -- VIA A
BOOM TUBE!"

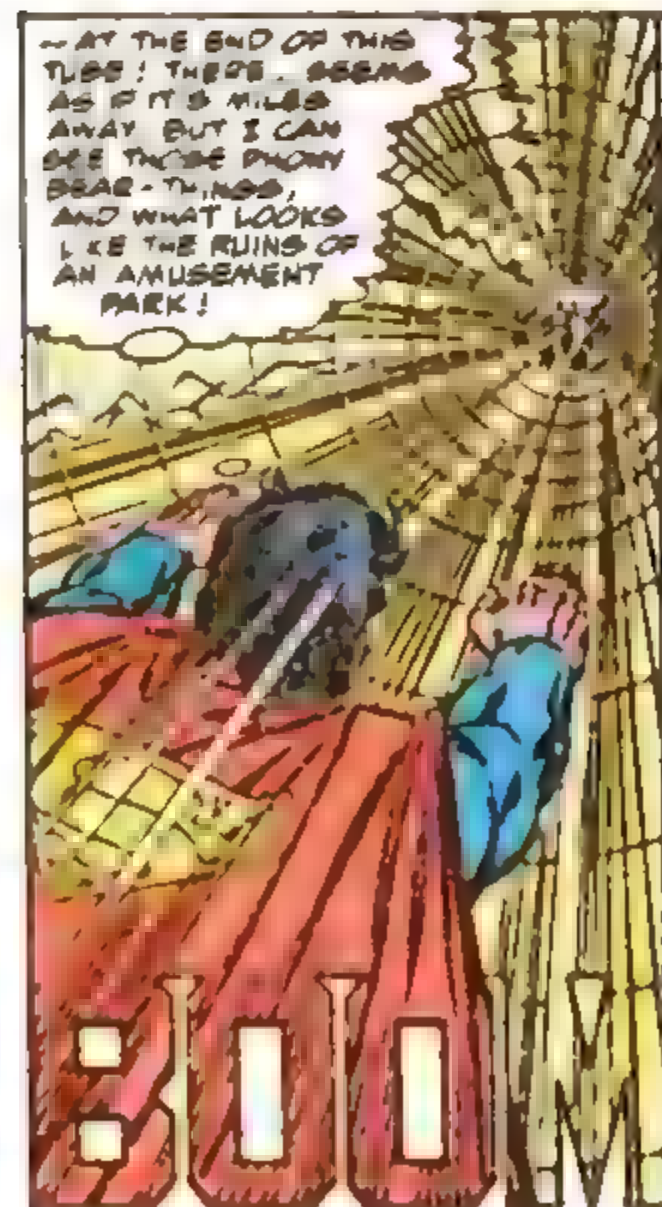


THIS IS INSANE!

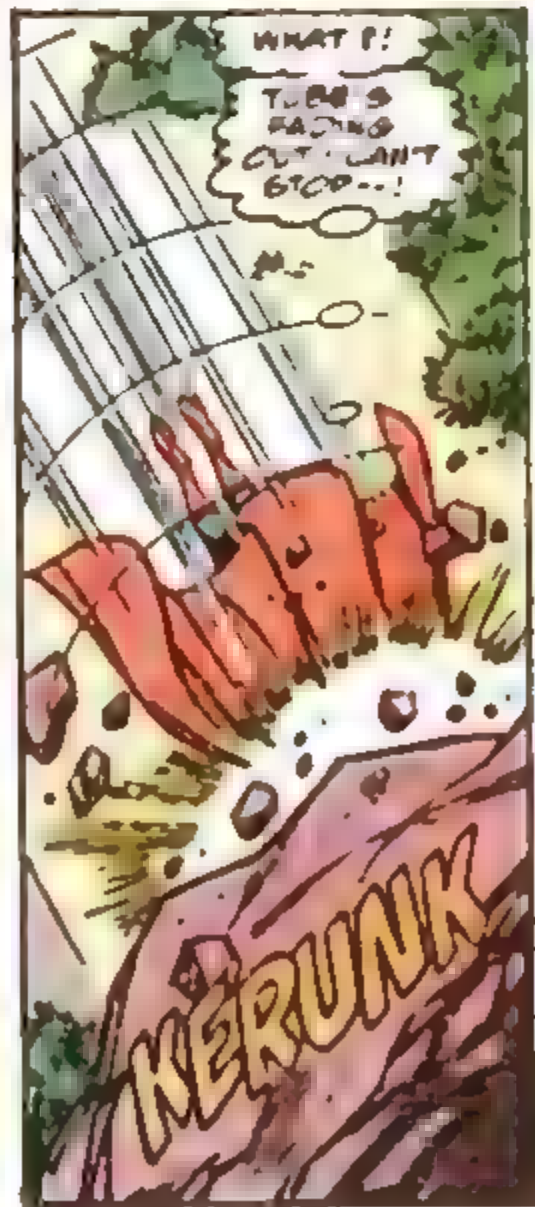
THE BLACK RACER TOOK ME
DOWN ONE OF THESE CROSS-
DIMENSIONAL TUNNELS JUST A
COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO. BUT
HE HAD SOME KIND OF LINK
WITH THE SUPER-BEINGS OF
NEW GENESIS AND APOCALIPS

A LAST
CHANCE
FOR US

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE TOYMAN
CAME UP WITH THE POWER TO CREATE
SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT I HOPE I
CAN FIND THE ANSWER --

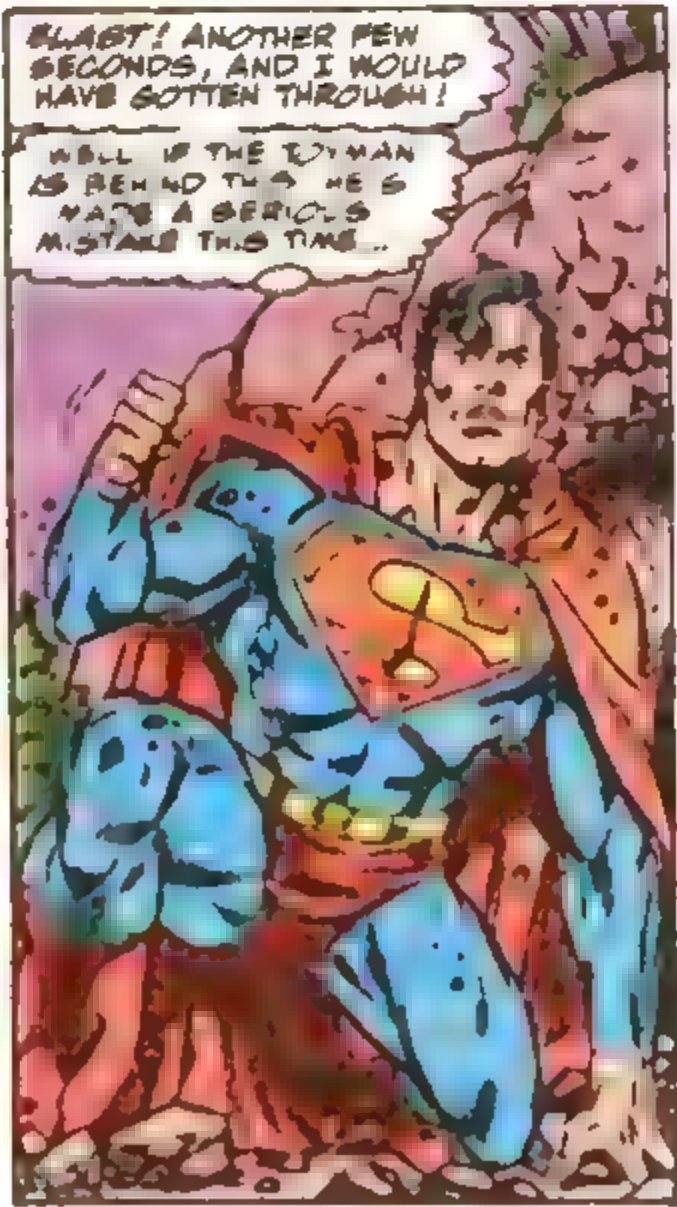


-- AT THE END OF THIS
TUBE! THERE, SEEMS
AS IF IT'S MILES
AWAY, BUT I CAN
SEE THOSE PHONY
BEAR-THINGS,
AND WHAT LOOKS
LIKE THE RUINS OF
AN AMUSEMENT
PARK!



WHAT?!
THERE'S
FADING
OUT... CAN'T
STOP...!

NERUNK



BLAST! ANOTHER FEW
SECONDS, AND I WOULD
HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH!

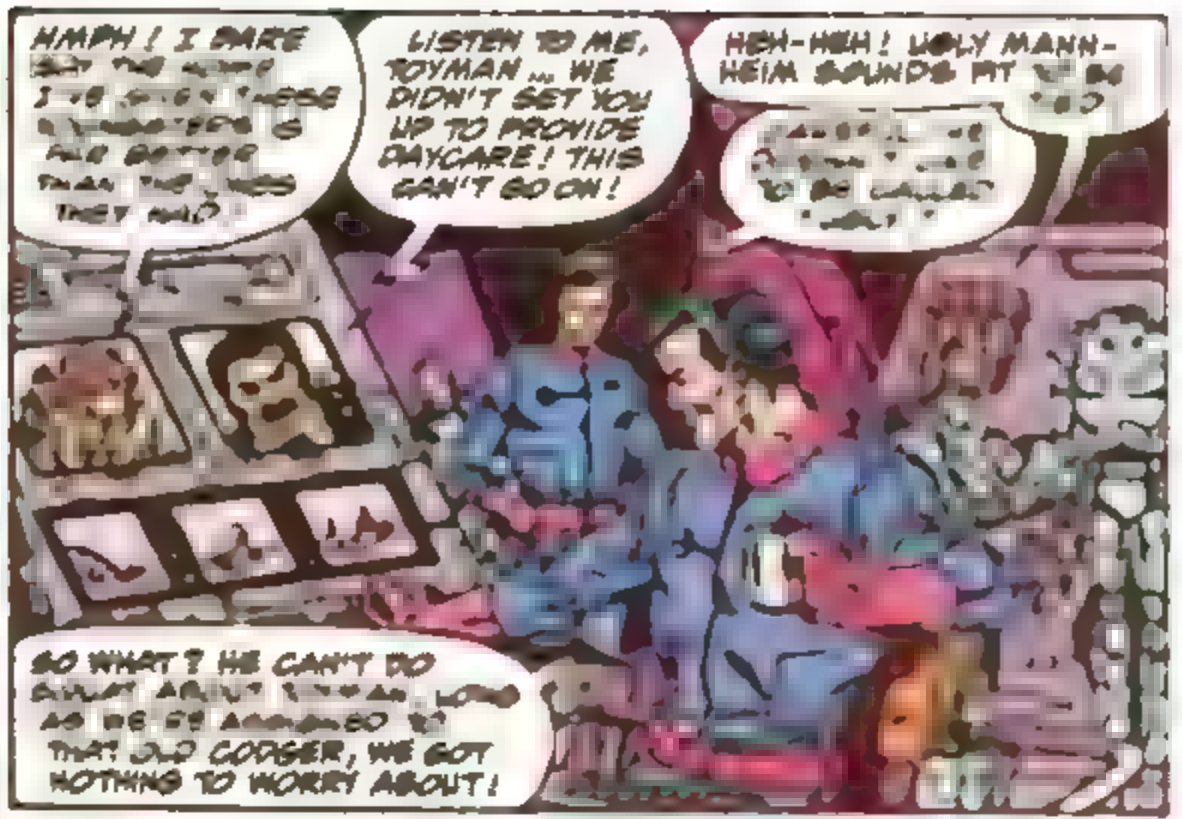
WELL IF THE TOYMAN
IS BEHIND THIS, HE'S
MADE A SERIOUS
MISTAKE THIS TIME...



THIS TIME
THEY'RE ALL
READY...

KEEP A
TIGHT GRASP
ON YOUR
PROPERTY

THEY
GOING TO
ENTER THE
BATTLE FOR
THE HOLE



HMPH! I DARE
ANYONE
TO SAY THESE
CHILDREN ARE
NOT BETTER
THAN THE
ONES THEY
HATE!

LISTEN TO ME,
TOYMAN... WE
DIDN'T SET YOU
UP TO PROVIDE
DAYCARE! THIS
CAN'T GO ON!

HEH-HEH! UGLY MANN-
HEIM SOUNDS MY
TWO

SO WHAT? HE CAN'T DO
ANYTHING ABOUT IT. FOR
AS LONG AS WE'RE
ASSIGNED TO
THAT OLD CROSER, WE GOT
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!



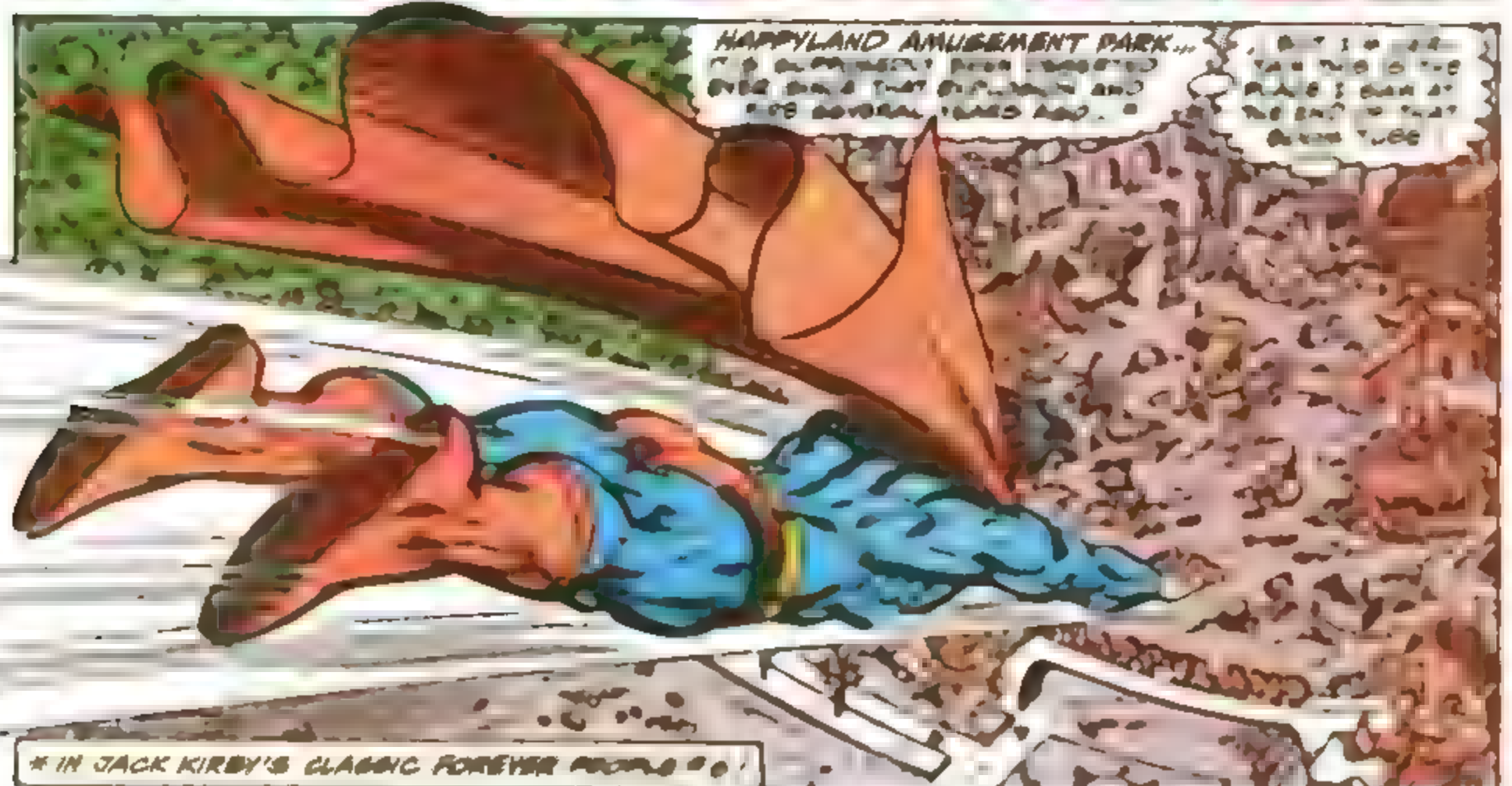
ALERT!



YOU
WERE
BATTING?

WAS HE
EVERYONE'S
BATTING?

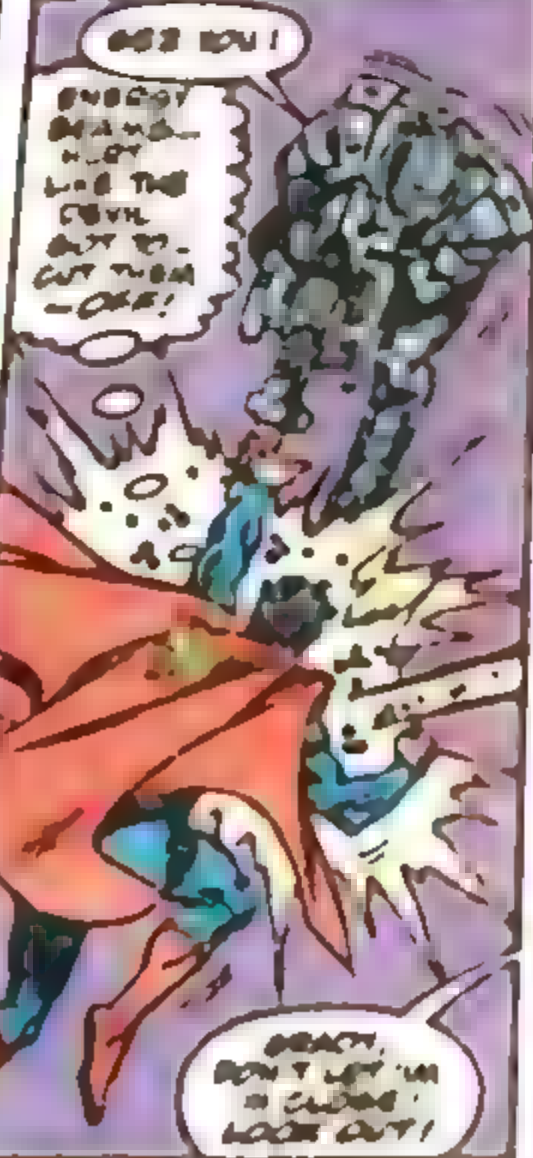
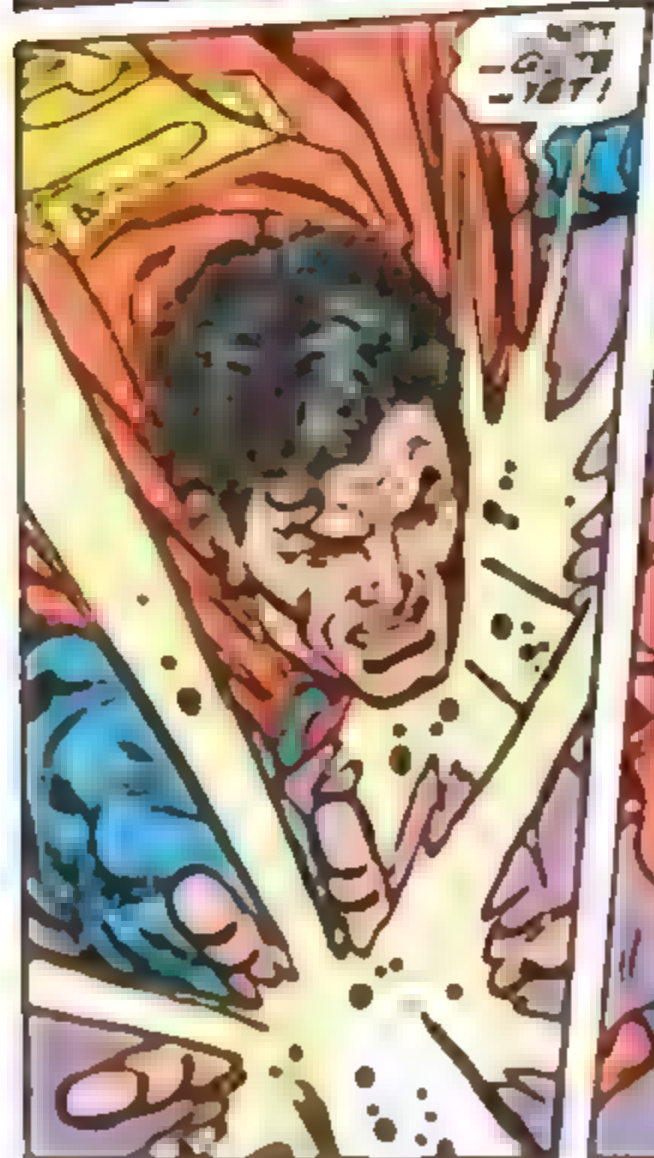
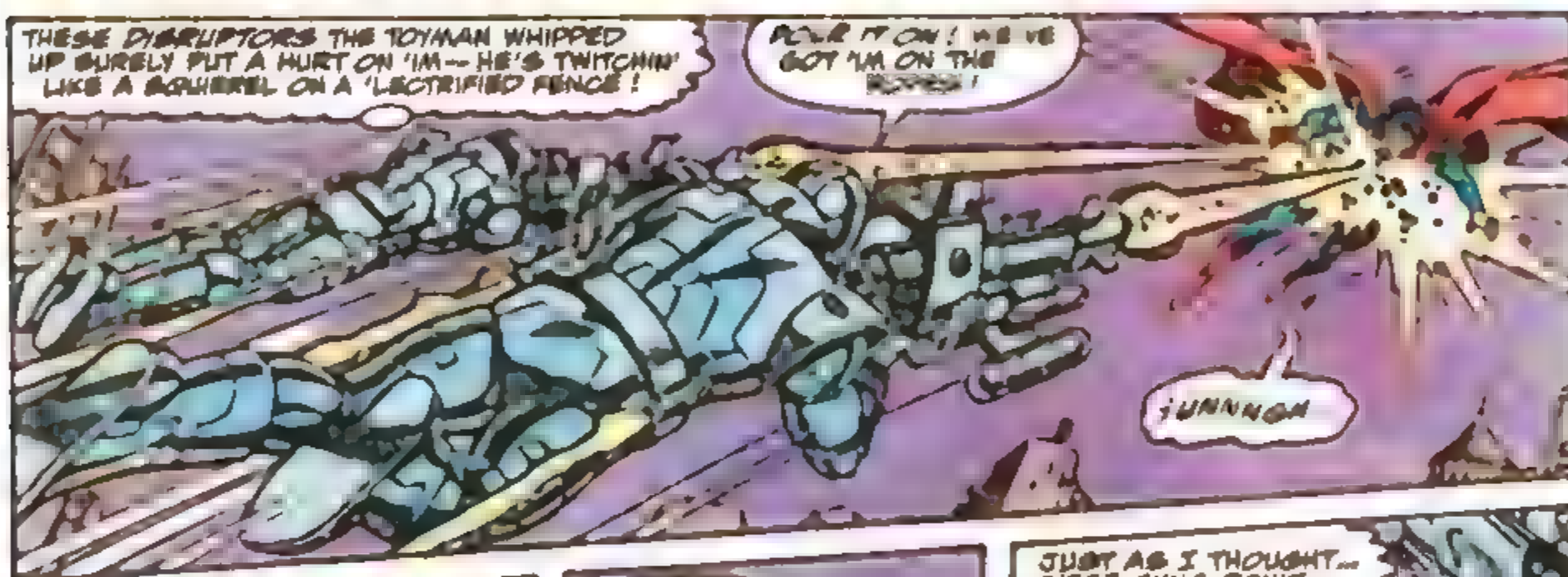
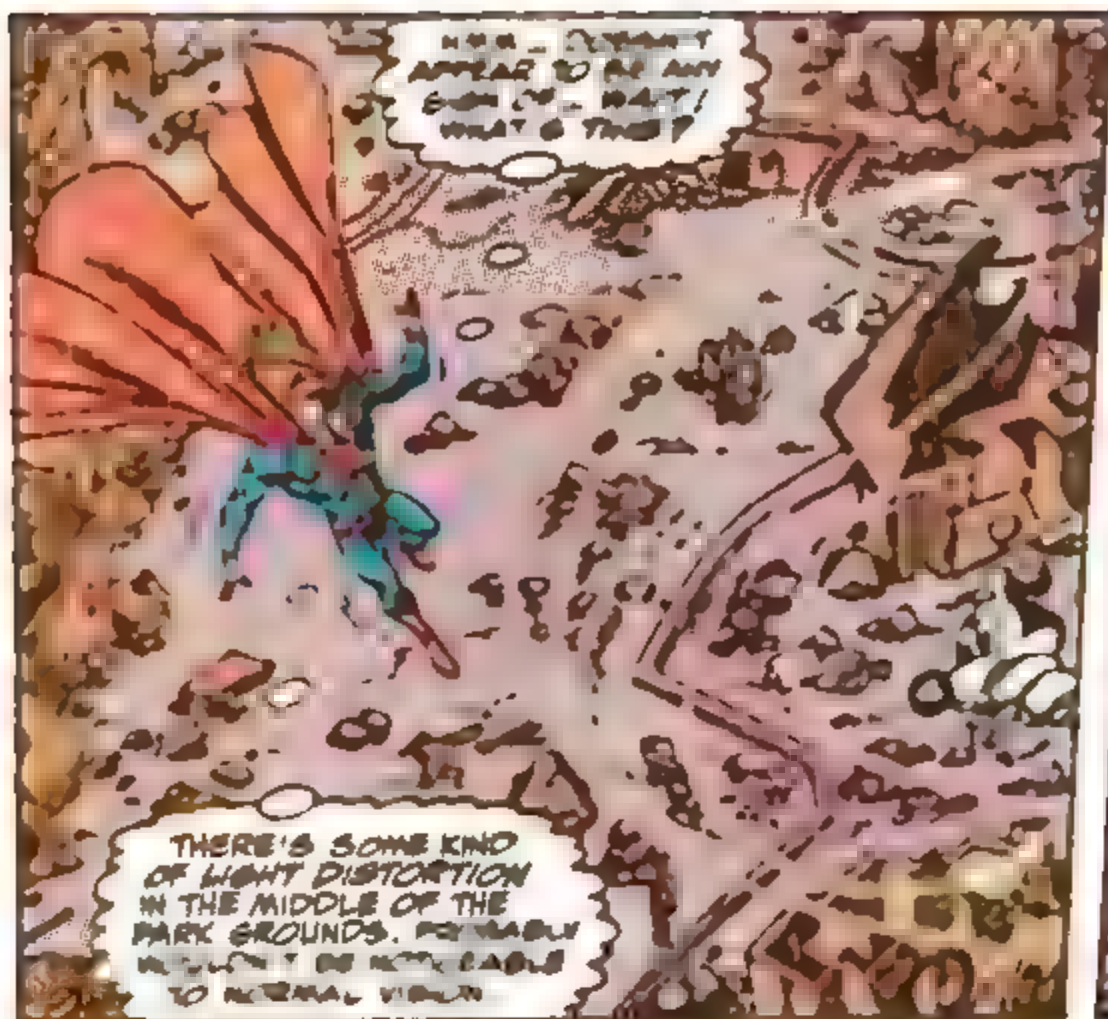
THE
HOLE
HERE

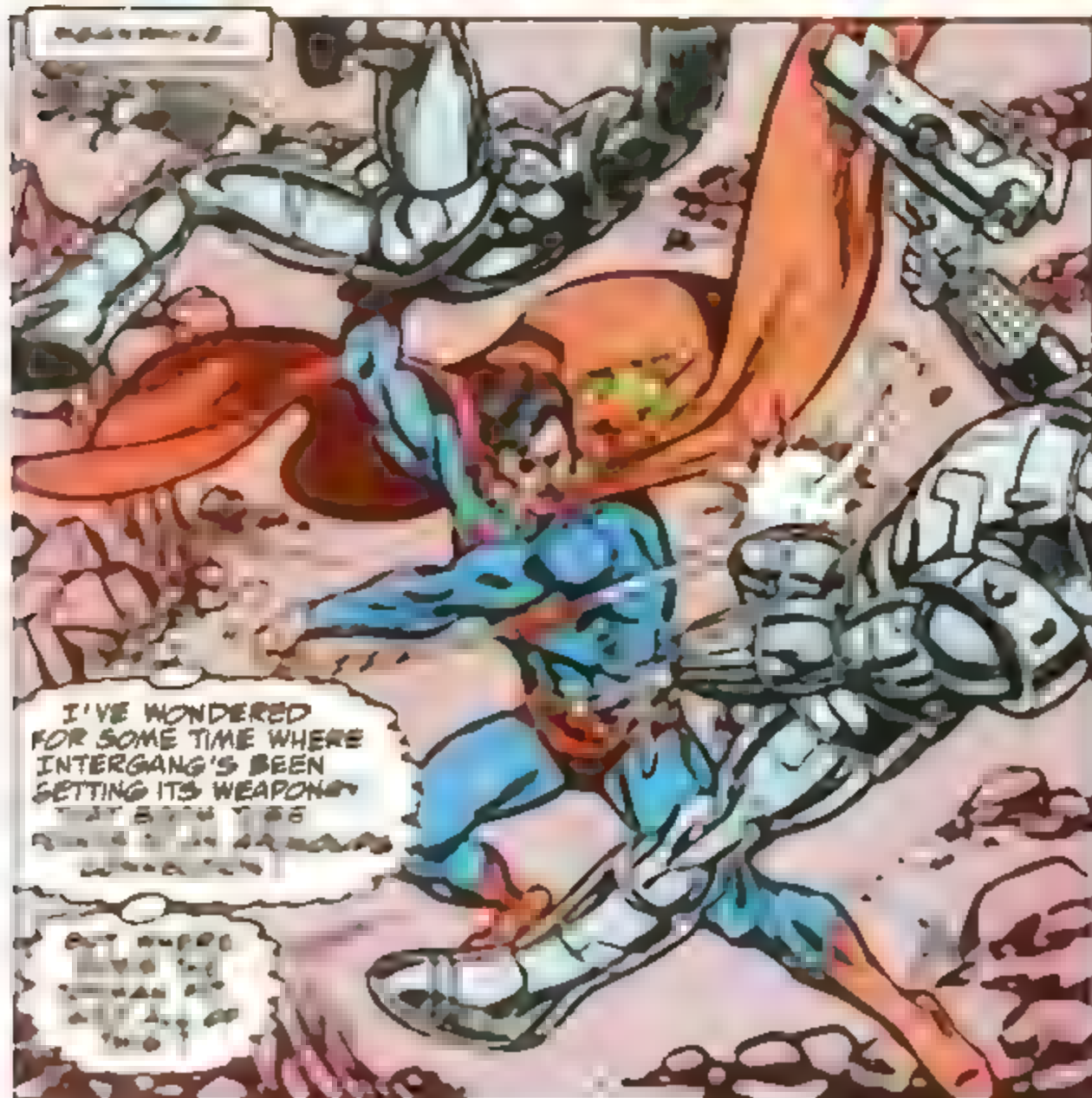


HAPPYLAND AMUSEMENT PARK...
IT'S BEEN
CLOSED SINCE
THEY FOUND
THE BATTLE
HERE

THE
HOLE
HERE

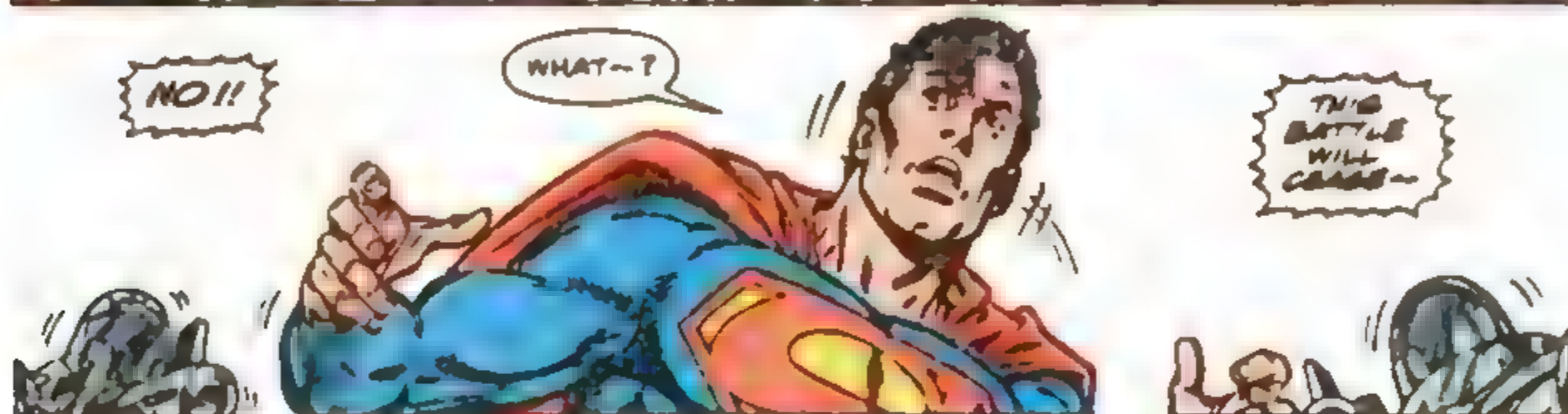
* IN JACK KIRBY'S CLASSIC FOREVER #100 *







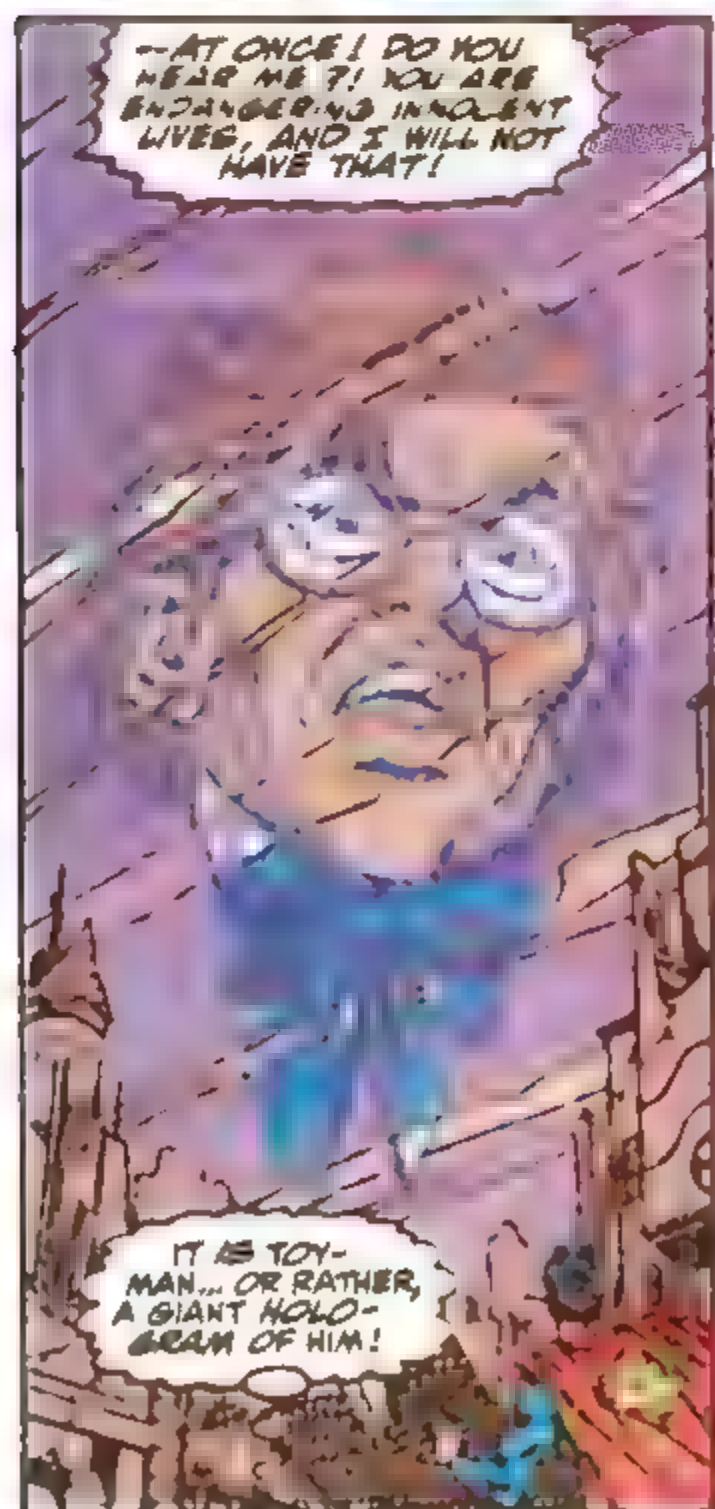
THIS
COULD BE
TROUBLE



NO!!

WHAT--?

THIS
BATTLE
WILL
CEASE--



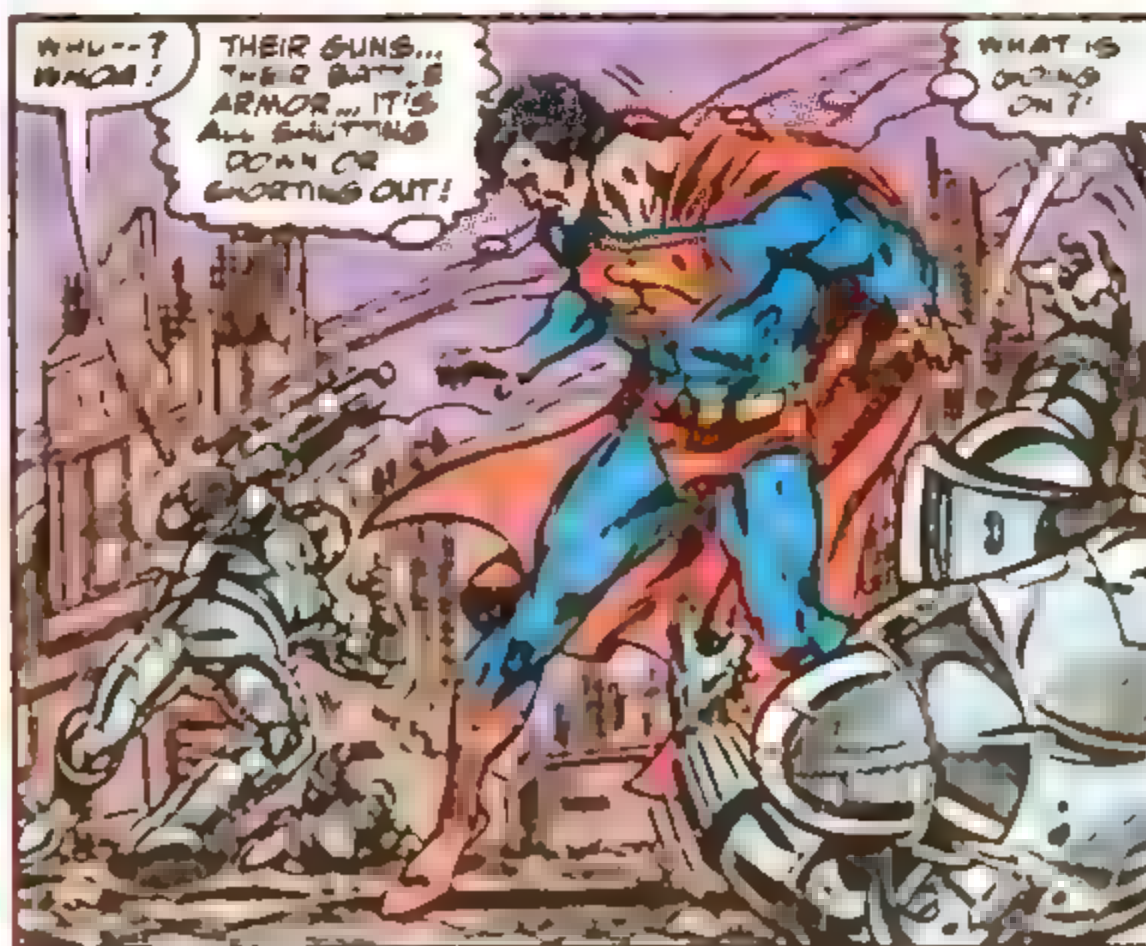
--AT ONCE! DO YOU
HEAR ME?! YOU ARE
ENDANGERING INNOCENT
LIVES, AND I WILL NOT
HAVE THAT!

IT IS TOY-
MAN... OR RATHER,
A GIANT HOLO-
GRAM OF HIM!



PUT DOWN YOUR
WEAPONS... OR I
SHALL PUT THEM
DOWN FOR YOU!

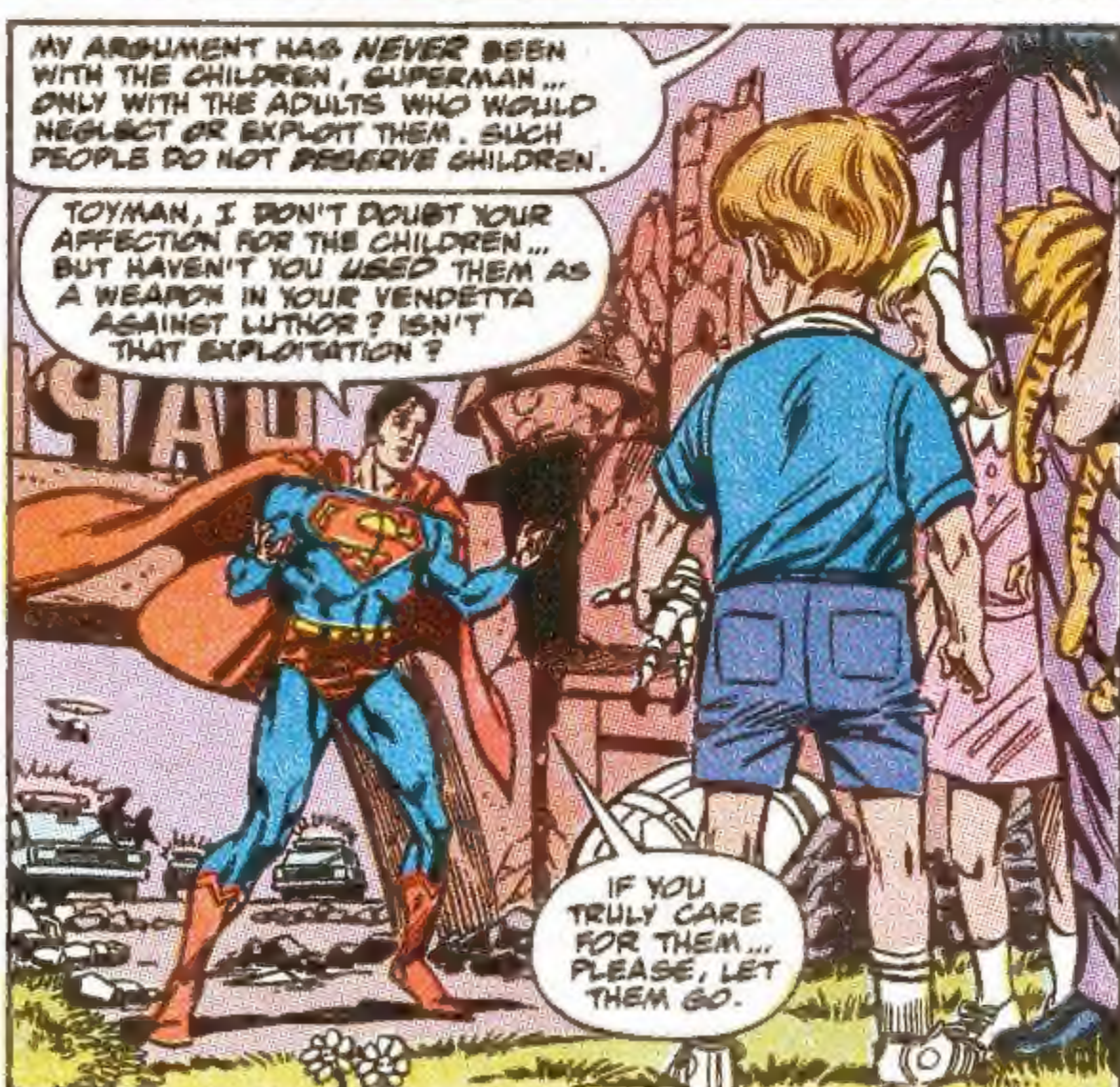
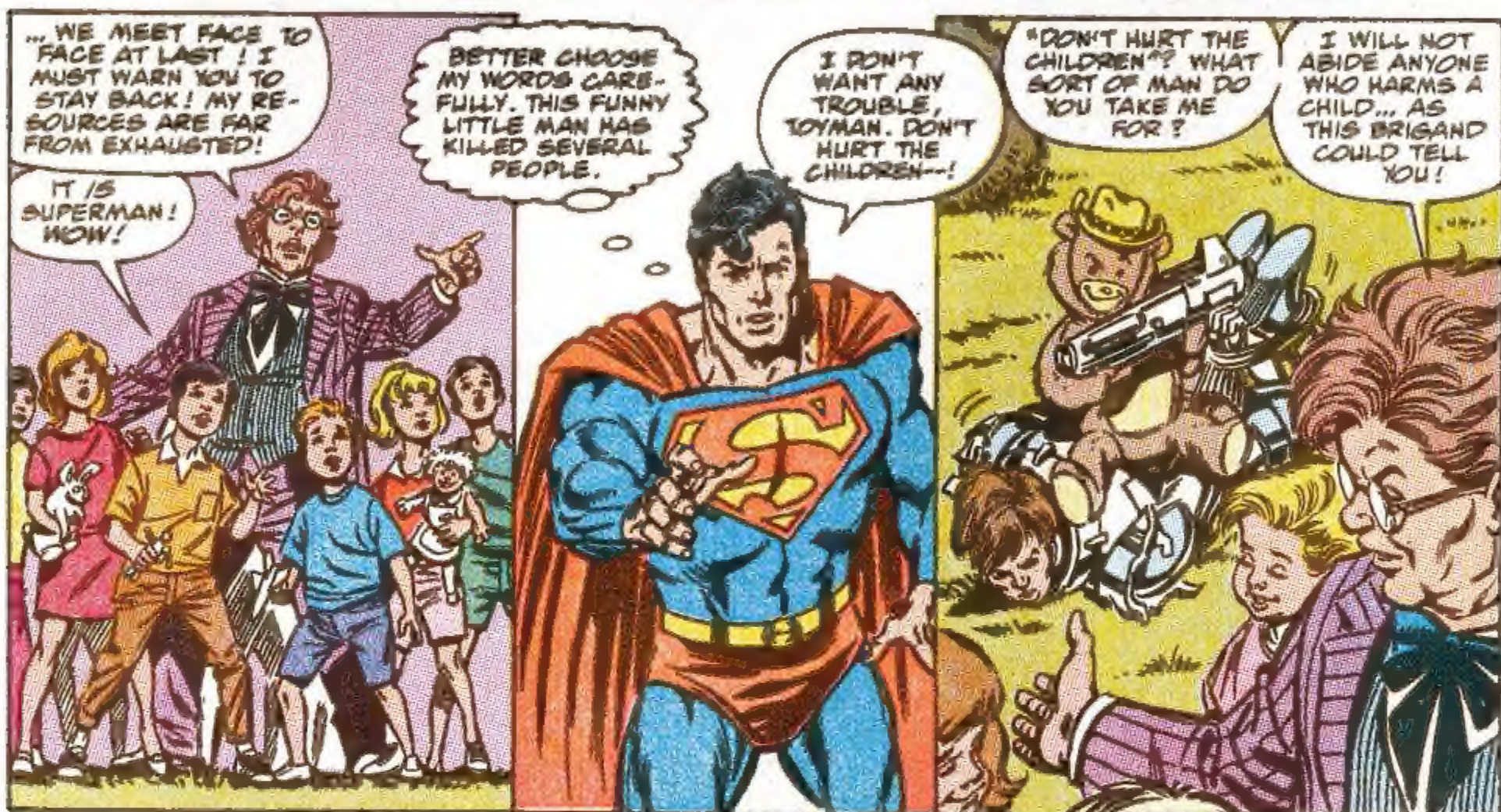
NO, NOT THE
SIGMA
CANNON!

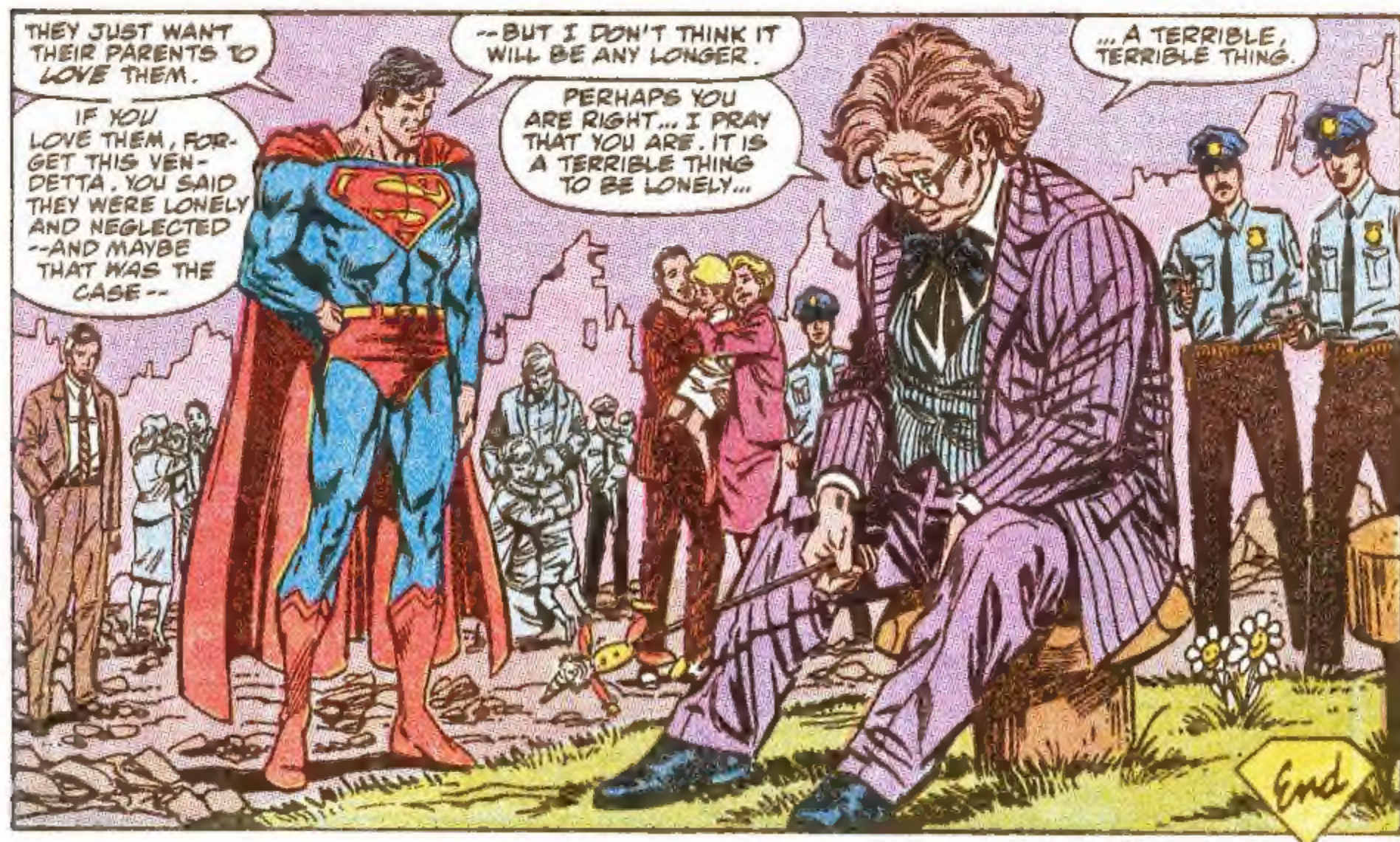


WHU--?
WHOA!

THEIR GUNS...
THEIR BATTLE
ARMOR... IT'S
ALL SHUTTING
DOWN OR
SHORTING OUT!

WHAT IS
GOING
ON?!





RE:ACTION

DC COMICS INC.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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Dear Superman:

For me, the most rewarding element of ACTION COMICS #652 was witnessing the heroic deeds of a parental couple in defense of their son. For those of us who are fortunate enough to have endearing parents like the Kents, seeing the love of Jonathan and Martha triumph over the brainwashing of the Eradicator was a thrill. After finally defeating the mind control of the ancient weapon, Superman will, I hope, be more resistant to the next telepathic assault he faces.

Yay! The rendable cape is back! The visual imagery of a ragged cloak adds to the more human approach to Superman.

Thank you, gentlemen, for one of the most satisfying conclusions to a comics magazine in recent memory. Page 21, with its scenes of a shattered Krypton and of Clark reassuming the Superman costume in Ma and Pa's presence, was reminiscent of MAN OF STEEL #1. Thank Rao, the Eradicator is gone for good. (But, Supes, what if it reactivates within Sol and turns the whole sun into a red giant just like Krypton's star? I know, I wouldn't lose sleep over it, either.) Yet grandest of all was the final frame of Superman flying over Earth's horizon. The emotions and fond memories of the closing scenes of the movie versions were called to mind. Thank you for so craftily repeating that experience on the printed page.

Superman's other pal,
Matthew J. Smith
106 N. 8th Street
Wheeling, WV 26003

Dear Mike:

Good riddance to the Eradicator! It was a wonderful plot device that was not (I repeat, *not*) overused, but in danger of becoming the equivalent of all non-green Kryptonite in the post-Crisis era of Superman. I enjoyed your "Day of the Krypton Man" series very much, although I am sad to see Clark lose his new job. Oh, well, such things happen, even to men of steel.

Come to think of it, ever since I started reading the Superman books (just as Byrne was leaving the series, actually), I have enjoyed everything about the three titles, but I'm sometimes at a loss to understand why. If I must justify my reasons for buying a title that many erudite Prestige Format comic-book fans sneer at, I suppose I would have to

point out that, in re-creating Superman's history, DC is doing much the same thing as the Romans did in altering the Greeks' myths for their own times (sure, it's a bit pretentious, but then again, so am I).

Rediscovering the symbols and norms of Superman in a constantly new light is wonderful, and I'm thrilled that it's going to take you years to create and replace all the old myths ... thanks!

R. Kevin Doyle
1630 Kewalo Street, #108
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Superman:

First of all, everyone involved in the "Day of the Krypton Man" series should be congratulated on one of the finest and most original stories in the history of Superman! Why is it original? Simply because Superman has never been so seriously torn between the two worlds and cultures that have always been an integral part of his life. And the Eradicator was a wonderful instrument to use as the tool behind that conflict: at the same time we were given a greater insight into Krypton, a world that still holds great mystery and fascination.

With the conclusion of this mini-series, the reader is brought with intensive speed from the destruction of the Eradicator by the power of a Kryptonian's heat vision to the rebirth of Superman. Also, in these past six issues, I've been bombarded by the striking writing and art. All three of these titles seem to move from one to the other with perfect continuity, and all three have successfully reinforced all the reasons I hold this character in such high regard, as I have for nearly the past twelve years.

So, thank you all, writers, pencilers, inkers, colorists, letterers, and, of course, Mike Carlin, for establishing this incredible saga, one I believe will be long remembered by many people.

Glenn Boreham
427 Mark Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 1W1 CANADA

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed the conclusion of the Krypton Man story line in ACTION COMICS #652. The red-and-black Krypton Man costume certainly looked good on our Man of Steel. Too bad it was de-

stroyed, although I understand why.

It was great to see Jonathan and Martha Kent play such a pivotal role in this story. It looks like parents might have a use in life after all! (I'm just kidding, Mom and Dad!)

I have been away from the Superman titles for a few months, but after reading SUPERMAN #42 and ACTION COMICS #652, I'm back to stay! Keep up the great work! The only thing that could improve this book is a crossover with Wonder Woman! Think about it!

Jody Wayne Hamby
Robbins, TN

Welcome back, Jody. You will be pleased to hear that DC is planning a major crossover series starring Wonder Woman, commemorating the Amazon Princess's 50th birthday (and she doesn't look a day over 25!). Watch for details...

Dear Michael:

I'm glad this Krypton Man thing is over, since it took away from my favorite attraction of the Superman books, namely Clark Kent and his friends. I want to see Clark make up with Lana and Jimmy, deal with Dr. McCoy, and have Lois find out he's Superman. And I want to see capes in tatters.

Glenn V. Morrison
Wardroom, USS Reeves (CG 24)
FPO San Francisco, CA
96677-1148

You're getting some of your wishes, Glenn, as we've reunited Clark with much of his supporting cast (though Lana might not have been made-up with), reintroduced Dr. Amanda (no relation to "Bones") McCoy—for a short time at least—and ripped up Superman's cape a couple of times recently. But about Lois learning Clark's secret (no, not the secret ingredient in his famous spaghetti sauce, but his Superman identity), we'll keep you in suspense on that one...

Dear Actionators:

Re: ACTION COMICS #653

So, Amanda knows that Clark Kent has a thing about blue-and-red tights, eh? That could be hazardous to her health. If you'll notice, people who snoop out a secret identity these days end up just this side of Deadman!

Even those who find out about secret identities from the heroes themselves

don't do so well. Look at Lana Lang's medical records! She's been beaten more than the guest masochist at a Sadists' Convention!

Now Amanda has dropped Lex Luther's Kryptonite ring, and may end up with bruises for days! Ouch! 'Bye-bye, Amanda!

Mark Phillips
P.O. Box 1927
Johnson City, TN 37606

Dear Mike and Co.:

Clark and Lois, the most famous "romance" in comics, finally turn romantic. About time. But now of Clark has a big problem. He has to tell Lois that nice Kansas couple suckered her but good. That's right, he has to tell her what he does in his spare time. The sooner the better, too—you simply don't keep a secret of that magnitude from the woman you love. After all, he told Wonder Woman right away, and they were "just friends."

Besides, Lois is a very sharp lady; if she starts paying any real attention to Clark, she has got to figure it out for herself. I don't see how she could be anything but angered by Clark's not telling her first.

Aside from the realities of adult romance, the business of Clark having to find some excuse to run off every time there is an emergency has been done to death. I'm sure you can find some other way to fill panels with little difficulty.

Speaking of which, having Clark free-lance is perfect. As we see in ACTION #653, it gives him that most precious of all commodities, time. Just don't let him

get stuck in the features ghetto. An investigative reporter (and author!) of his stature should be doing more serious work.

A mystery woman with a Kryptonite ring and knowledge of the secret! Methinks I know why Batman will be prowling Metropolis for the next three issues. I hope you haven't killed Amanda. Convenient deaths are not only cheap, but you would be killing a fertile source of stories.

George Kinnean
P.O. Box 41067
Chicago, IL 60641

Dear Mr. Peterson and Mr. Eury:

My regards to the designer of the nifty new logo featured on the cover of ACTION COMICS issue #653, "Love and Death."

Kerry Gammill and Brett Breeding did an exceptional job on the cover. It was further enhanced by the colorist, perhaps the work of Mr. Whitmore?

Equally impressive was Roger Stern's scripting. The story moved smoothly from one scene to another. I enjoyed the way he introduced the Intergang subplot and exited the scene to Amanda's retribution scheme.

A welcome addition to the art team is Bob McLeod. It was good to see Superman in Bob's larger panel storytelling style. He does quite a menacing Mannheim.

Thanks go out to Mike Carlin for bringing it all together. Of the three Superman titles, ACTION is the one I enjoy most.

Kevin J. Conley
12 Burgess Street
Methuen, MA 01844

Our new ACTION logo was designed by Keith Wilson and Todd Klein, Kevin. We're glad you like it. And our own Brett Breeding is responsible for coloring ACTION's covers each month. Take a bow, folks.

—Michael Eury

NEXT MONTH:

In SUPERMAN #48, in two weeks, we present for your reading pleasure Part One of the three-part "Sinbad Contract."

In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #471, in three weeks, we'll submit Part Two of the three-part "Sinbad Contract."

In ACTION COMICS #658 in four weeks, we'll publish Part Three of the three-part "Sinbad Contract."

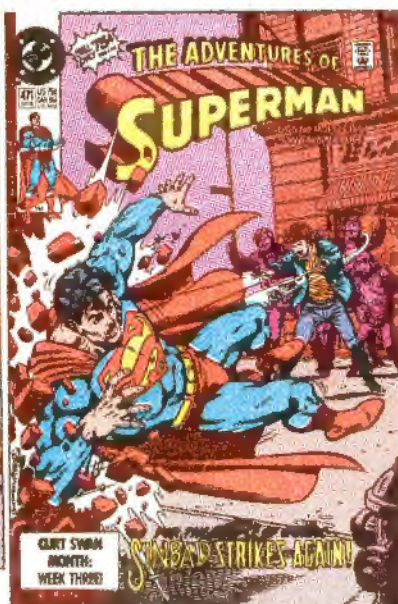
What is the Sinbad Contract? Who is Sinbad, for that matter? Well, William Messner-Loebs, Curt Swan, and Dennis Janke know the answers to those questions and more ... and, believe it or not, they're telling those answers in the three Superman titles mentioned above.

* Series Super-Fans take note: It's Curt Swan Month in DC's Super-Books! (So don't miss SUPERBOY THE COMIC BOOK #s 9 and 10, either, for more Curt—this time in the Phantom Zone!)

This month's cover was pencilled by Kerry Gammill (thanks for filling in on the insides this month, too, Ker) and inked and colored by Brett Breeding.



NEXT MONTH:



IN DC'S THREE SUPERMAN TITLES